



Living in this World with Cut & Paste

- Part 2 -

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[Junk Burst Translations]

CHAPTER 50

LABYRINTH OF STRENGTH (5)

I tossed the crushed troll into the storage bag, and wandered about B2.

After that, I safely defeated the trolls that appeared, and right now I've just defeated the sixth one.

I had expected each individual to have different Skills like the orcs and slimes, but they all had the same ones, so I couldn't obtain any new Skills.

I've pasted their Skills on pebbles, but honestly, I was struck with an idea so I thought that I would try experimenting once I return home.

"Phew, will this do for now? It's quite late, so why don't we head back?"

As Aisha said that, she thought for a while, and gave a suggestion.

"...Myne-kun, do you think you'll be able to defeat this levels boss, the "Troll Gazer"? If so, we can make quite the progress, and I think it'll be faster if we got out using the boss room's transfer stone.

It's just that is a seriously formidable enemy, so... it might be a hard fight, even for Myne-kun..."

The reason the Troll Gazer is regarded as formidable is because of its regeneration and its strengthened Skills, so if its me, I think I could probably defeat it.

Regarding my offense, I think I could exterminate it in one go if I use Twirling...

I wonder if Aisha decided after seeing my battles with the trolls?

Un, it seems to be worth challenging.

"I won't say that it's absolute, but... I could probably defeat it"

As I said that, Aisha seemed to have prepared herself for the worst, as she nodded with a serious look, and our attempt at the boss was hurriedly decided.

“As expected, there’s really no one here, huh...”

Aisha muttered in the hall before the boss room.

The Clan Soaring Sandstorm was in the B1’s, after all.

I think it feels somehow lonely, looking at this deserted room.

However, I think it’s natural that nobody is here.

From what I’ve heard, there still isn’t anyone who can defeat the Troll Gazer.

If there isn’t enormous firepower, it’s evident that the tables will be turned on them.

Properly speaking, it’s monster which you need to prepare for drawn-out battle as you gather firepower.

However, I plan to immediately steal its Skills, and floor it in one go with Twirling.

“Yosh, let’s go”

We opened the door and set our feet into the room.

Name: Troll Gazer

LV: 51

Race: Demon Race

Gender:

[Skills]

Ultra Regeneration

Magic Eye of Charm

Strong Arm • Saint

[Abilities]

None

This is... awful.

Is this even something you can beat without stealing its Skills?

A party won against this? No, an alliance, maybe? Either way, it’s outrageous...

Oops, this isn’t the time to be admired.

No can do, no can do. I'll have to first steal its Skills.

"Aisha, can I leave you with fast attacks? Can you attack at full power at my signal?"

Confirming Aisha's nod, I stuck its feet onto the ground.

As long as you don't reach a certain distance from the floor boss, it won't move.
...This will contain its initial movements.

Yosh, let's cast self-enhancements at full power.

[Body Enhancement • Large] [Physical Strength Enhancement • Extreme] [Leg
Strength Enhancement • Small] [Strong Arm • Extreme] [Strong Arm • Saint]
[Strength Rise]

And create Twirling with [Realize].

Yosh, I've finished preparing!

"Aisha, please!"

Aisha fired an arrow at my shout.
...The battle has started.

The arrow Aisha fired hit it, and the Troll Gazer which came alive tripped and
stumbled greatly.

It tried to keep its balance so that it doesn't fall, but it's too late!

I who started running at the moment Aisha fired her arrow, have already reached the
range of my attack.

"Eat this! Martial Art: Shark Glow!!"

This attack had consigned a Calamity Class, and Orc King, to oblivion.
There's no way this guy who lost its Ultra Regeneration can endure this.

The scene where I defeat the Orc King was perfectly reproduced.
With a violent explosion sound resounding in the surroundings, the Troll Gazer was
cut up right in half.

And then, Twirling which had finished its role disappeared from my hands along with a light.

I then tossed the Troll Gazer's corpse into my storage bag.
I sat down at that place and time.

As expected, creating Twirling was extremely exhausting.

...Now then, I wonder what the drops are.

Name: Linus • Sword

Attack: +60

Grade: Ultra

Attribute: Light

Effective against: Ghosts

Martial Arts: Sacrifice • Zwei

...An Ultra grade one-handed sword.

It has quite the high power, huh. Seems like it can even use an exclusive martial art.

It'll probably be good if I hand this over to Sylphy.

It seems like a good souvenir, and it'll be good if she's happy with this.

"Phew, thanks for the hard work!"

Aisha talked to me with a little stunned expression on her face, and I also replied 'thanks for the hard work'.

I got up with Aisha's help, and we both went towards the transfer stone.

Like this, my first dungeon exploration ended.



We entered the dungeon in the morning, but it's already completely dark.
My sense of time went greatly out of order when I went in, huh.

It'll be harsh if we don't stay for one more night...

Although it's not that I can't return using [Characteristic Magic • Space-time], but as expected, I'm hesitating a little in showing it.

Frankly speaking, I feel like it'd be okay to speak to Aisha about it. However, there's also the matter with Sylphy, so I can't be resolute.

If I can believe in Sylphy as much as I can in Aisha when she returns... I'll probably open my heart then.

That's why, for now, we'll have to get a lodging.

"No helping it, I guess, let's stay a night and return first thing next morning"

Aisha's also probaby quite tired as expected, as she immediately agreed. We decided to head to the Silver Bell Pavilion which we had stayed at yesterday night.

Of course, it goes without saying that I held her hand firmly as we walked.

"Good evening! Is there a room available?"

The proprietress-san who received us last night was immediately there as we entered the entranceway, so we called out to her.

As we did that, she seemed to have remembered us, faced me and answered "Yes, we still have some rooms available".

We paid for the lodging upfront, and followed proprietress-san who guided us to the same room as yesterday.

We sat on the chairs and relaxed for a while, before entering the bath which we are completely fond of together.

I am still a little embarrassed but, I think I've gotten used to it greatly.

I reflexively let out a voice at the perfect water temperature.

"Phew~ ♪"

Aisha who saw that giggled.

"Somehow, it felt long... , but also felt short... I'm really tired"

“That’s true, I’m also a little tired. It has been a while since I went all out, after all”

“Let’s slowly soak ourselves in the bath, and let it take away the fatigue”

After that, we washed each other’s bodies, and enjoyed the bath while flirting.

...What happened after coming out from the bath?

Of course, we slept together on the bed.

You’ve got a problem with that?

CHAPTER 51

LET'S TRY EXPERIMENTING

Ten hours... While shaking on the carriage once again, we arrived back at the Town of Lucas.

When I boarded it alone, I felt that it was quite the tiring journey, but thanks to Aisha being here, we arrived without feeling bitter.

Because we boarded the carriage while dragged along by the lingering memory of yesterday night, neither I nor Aisha restrained ourselves at all.

Thinking about it now, there's no doubt that the people on the same carriage as us experienced an extremely difficult trip.

I feel like I've done something bad to the people who shared a carriage with us... I'm sorry.

““I'm back!”“

Although we were gone for only two days, as soon as I entered the house, I felt that my body become weak.

Although I didn't feel it, in the end, my nerves were strained, huh...

I'll leave the request for the bath to the craftsman for tomorrow.

“...Seems like Hime-sama isn't back yet”

Un,... I'm actually a little relieved.

If she returned to our absence, even though she said that she will return in about 10 days, Sylphy will also be troubled.

While I was in the carriage going there, I suddenly felt worried.

As I discussed this with Aisha, she told me that there's certainly a possibility for that to happen, and my heart throbbed quite quickly.

I'm reflecting; I should have thought this through at first.

We threw ourselves onto the bed for a while and rested, but we decided to start preparing for dinner as my stomach let out a rumble.

Aisha paid attention to my needs and said that she would make it by herself today, and that I should rest. As a result, I lay on the bed as I had been.

As I was waiting, I had nothing to do, so I decided to try experimenting on something I hit upon when we were in the dungeon.

Firstly, I took out the haft and blade of the broken steel dagger from my storage bag.

What I thought of was, 'Can't I restore the dagger using [Regeneration]?'. However, it wouldn't be interesting with just restoring it, so let's try carrying out another experiment.

In the end, I couldn't experiment whether Regeneration can mend damage parts in battle, but I anticipate that I can confirm it with this experiment.

Firstly, I pasted [Regeneration] onto the haft.
...As I did that, the lost blade "grew" from the haft.

Name: Steel Dagger +12
Attack: +30
Grade: High
Attribute: None
Effective against: Humanoid
Skill: Regeneration

...Seems like it was completely repaired.
Yosh, next experiment.

Now, I'll try striking Lightning Edge strongly with the restored steel dagger.
As I did that, the steel dagger couldn't endure the force, and chipped, though only a little.

As I stared at the chipped part, I saw that it gradually restored... It then returned to its original form in about a minute.

...If I pasted this onto all my equipments, wouldn't I not need maintenance...?
Moreover, even if they receive damage in a battle, won't it conveniently get mended?

For now, I pasted [Regeneration] on Lightning Edge as well.

However... if I paste this onto myself and lose an arm or something, it'll regenerate, won't it?

It's good that it'll regenerate, but if someone were to see that process...

Un, I'll paste it each time during healing, and paste it onto a pebble when I'm not!

Yosh, let's start the next experiment.

This time, I try pasting [Strong Arm] onto the steel dagger.

If this goes well, I can probably attack with considerable strength, right?

"I'm going to the dismantling shed for a while, I'll be back immediately!"

I called out to Aisha, and hurried over to the dismantling shed.

I then placed the Troll Gazer's corpse onto the work table and tried cutting at it with the steel dagger with [Strong Arm] pasted on it.

However, the blade could only inflict a small wound on the Troll Gazer's corpse.

...U~n, no good, I can't use this.

I somehow expected it, but [Strong Arm] didn't activate.

In the first place, [Strong Arm] is the type of Skill where it'll activate by the user's thoughts.

In contrast, [Regeneration] is a continuous activation type Skill.

It'll be simple for us who possess thoughts to activate the Skill, but a dagger doesn't have thoughts.

That's why it can't activate Skills which require thoughts... that's probably the case.

In other words, if I want the Skills effects when pasting Skills onto tools, then it'll have

to be a continuous activation type Skill.

With that, let's move on to the next experiment.

I tried pasting three [Continuous: Power] onto the steel dagger.

I then tried cutting at the Troll Gazer's corpse just like before.

Different from the previous attempt, this time, the blade pierced deeply into it.

Un, just as I expected.

It'll be better to ensure the continuous activation type Skill as much as possible, huh.

I can move to the Dungeon of Strength with [Characteristic Magic • Space-time] whenever I wanted.

It'll probably be good to try going there to collect Skills when I'm free.

As I came to that conclusion, Aisha called out to me.

"Myne-kun, dinner's ready"

I tossed the Troll Gazer's corpse and two steel daggers into the storage bag, and returned to the main building together with Aisha.



The dinner Aisha made was a masterpiece as usual.

Come to think of it, since we made it together up until now, in a certain sense, it's my first time experiencing Aisha's home cooking.

Although we aren't married yet, it completely feels like we are newly-weds.

After finishing the enjoyable meal, Aisha went back to her own room.

She told me that she wants to finish cleaning up the room before Sylphy comes back.

As I said "Wouldn't it be fine tomorrow?", she told me "There'll be more leeway if it's finished ahead of time.", so I took over cleaning up the tableware and send her out.

"Yosh, let's first wash them"

I took out three pebbles with [Continuous: Water] pasted on them from the storage bag.

I gathered the [Continuous: Water] from the three pebbles on to one, and made it the source of water for washing the tableware.

Although water will seep out a little with only one of this Skill, by combining three of them, I expect that it'll be enough to wash the tableware.

Although it was a little more water flowing out than I had expected, it ensured that there would be enough water.

With this, there's no need to draw water from the well.

By the way, I thought of experimenting and drank the water, and it was sweeter than the well water.

[Magic Water]: Water overflowing with magical power and contains no impurities.

So it was written.

Furthermore, quite a lot of water is collected inside the storage bag with the pebbles inside it. If all the water is retrieved, it seemed like it'll flood the washing place, and it's a secret that I panickedly threw it away outside the storage bag.

“～♪”

After I threw away the water which had accumulated inside the storage bag, while I hummed to change my mood, I hastened the work, and finished cleaning up the tableware in the blink of an eye.

Now then, I once again divided the Skill onto three pebbles and limit the ejection of water.

If I left it as it is without thinking through it, the storage bag will become like before all over again.

If I'm unlucky, it's possible that the house will be flooded out.

I then made sure to put the pebbles with [Continuous: Water] pasted onto them into the storage bag I made with [Characteristic Magic • Space-time].

I thought, “Won’t I be able to stop the water from gushing out since time doesn’t pass inside it?”.

Since I’m in the kitchen, let’s try experimenting once more.

I put in three [Continuous: Water] pebbles and 2 [Continuous: Heat] pebbles into a medium-sized bottle.

As I did that, it became fully filled in about thirty seconds, and as I tried putting my hand into it, it felt somewhat warm.

“...It’s not enough, huh”

I increased [Continuous: Heat] from two to three, and waited for 30 seconds.

Then, as I put my hand into it like before, though it’s not to the level of a hot bath (compared to the usual ones), it reached a temperature which felt good as it came into contact with my hand.

Yes, it felt like a bath’s hot water.

“Un, there doesn’t seem to be a problem for the hot water for the bath with this.

When the craftsman builds the bath heater for me, it seems like requesting for cavities the size of pebbles on the interior would be good.

Since the construction will finish with only the water drainage system, it might not take that long to install it”

Satisfied with the results, I returned to my own room.

Name: Myne

LV: 61

Race: Hume

Gender: Male

Age: 15 years

Occupation: Hunter

[Skill]

Body Enhancement • Small | LV4(3→4) LevelUp!

Body Enhancement • Large | LV3(2→3) LevelUp!

Continuous: Power | new!

Rock • Slash | new!

Rush | new!

Magic Eye of Shock | new!

Magic Eye of Charm | new!

Strong Arm • Saint | new!

Name: Pebble

Attack: 1

Grade: Low

Attribute: Water

[Skill]

Continuous: Water

Continuous: Water

Continuous: Water

Name: Pebble

Attack: 1

Grade: Low

Attribute: Heat

[Skill]

Continuous: Heat

Continuous: Heat

Continuous: Heat

[Stored Skills]

Continuous: Power

Continuous: Heat
Continuous: Water
Continuous: Wind
Continuous: Light
Body Enhancement • Small
Strong Arm
Strong Arm • Extreme
Strength Rise

Regeneration
Ultra Regeneration

Name: Aisha • Lorelle
LV: 43 (29→43) LevelUp!
Race: Hume
Gender: Female
Age: 26 years
Occupation: Archery Master

CHAPTER 52

LET'S BUILD A BATH!

As dawn breaks, I went to draw well water to wash my face.

Although using [Continuous: Water] pebble was also okay, but I think I'll feel more refreshed using cold well water to wash my face when I wake up.

Since Aisha took care of me by making yesterday's dinner, I thought that I would make today's meal.

While feeling refreshed after washing my face, I started making breakfast.

When I had finished everything but the food arrangement, Aisha woke up.

Seems that she cleaned until quite late last night, as it's rare that she looks sleepy.

"Sorry for not helping with breakfast"

As I smiled while telling her not to mind it, she smiled as she silently started helping me arrange the food.

"It's almost finished so you should take it easy. I was pampered by you yesterday, after all"

As I said that, she finished arranging the food.

As expected of [Cooking Lv6], she has good skills.

"I was thinking of discussing with the craftsman about the bath like I said yesterday after we finish our food.

Does Aisha know any skilled craftsman?"

"U—n, there's the dwarf who the guild requests for work, so why don't we try visiting him?"

A dwarf craftsman! He seems like he'd be skilled!

He might have some good ideas, and there might be things we need to request of him after this...

We have to try discussing with that craftsman!



Guided by Aisha, we arrived at the dwarf craftsman-san in question.

My house is also built at almost the edge of the town, but craftsman-san's workshop is also erected really at the outskirts.

My house's surroundings are nothing but empty land, so it feels lonely, though...

There's a few buildings like the workshop and a bar around here, it has quite some traffic, so even if it's called the outskirts, it looks like a lively place.

"Craftsman-san, are you in~?"

Aisha opened the entrance and greeted.

As she did that, a female dwarf who was sitting at a reception-like place replied.

"Oh my, if it isn't Aisha-san. Ya need something from Master? Wait a while, I'll call him right now"

The woman receptionist who had an unusual speech pattern ran? with heavy steps to the back of the workshop.

A short time later, a jii-chan with a face which was pitch black covered in a soot-like thing, probably from working on something, and a height tall for a dwarf came out.

"Oh, if it isn't Aisha-chan! 've heard that ya just quit the guild, was worried bout ya, ya know"

The one who called out to Aisha with a smile stretching through his whole face, seems to be this workshop's craftsman.

"Eeh, I'm sorry for the sudden resignation. I'm getting married, so..."

As Aisha looked at my direction and said that, the craftsman became aware of my presence for the first time.

“Good morning! My name is Myne!”

As I gave my usual greeting, the craftsman seemed to be taken aback a little, but immediately gave a broad smile with his teeth showing.

Just as Otou-san and Okaa-san taught me, greetings are important!

“Ah see, ah see, so you’re Myne. ‘m Roku, this workshop’s owner. Remember that”

While Roku-san laughed heartily, he violently clapped my back.

...It hurts, but he seems like a good person.

Seeing my back clapped, Aisha smiled wryly and watched over me.

No, don’t just watch, I’d appreciate it if you could tell him to stop.

The craftsman clapped my back for a while, though he stopped hitting, probably satisfied, and stroked his splendid beard as he asked.

“And, what ‘ja come ‘ere for? Report yer marriage or somethin’?”

“No, we wanted to build a bath at our house, so we came to discuss”

As I said that, I told the craftsman about my idea.

- A largish bathtub.
- A few 3cm x 3cm dents on the side of the bathtub.
- Hot water making mechanism and water inserting mechanism are not needed.
- The drainage system will use a magic tool, and the water will accumulate in a filtration tank, and can then be re-used for domestic uses.

“U—n, if yer leaving out them hot water making n’ putting parts, it’ll take ‘bout three days, tho...”

Ya really kay with that? Putting in them water’s troublesome, ya know?”

It seems that usually, a dedicated magic tool is used to draw water from the well, or some water source. It will then be heated in a dedicated stove, which will then be poured into an iron pot.

Because of that, the installation cost and the price of the magic tools is ridiculously expensive, and the project will become large-scaled.

With that bottleneck, baths don't spread to the general public.

"Yes, that isn't a problem!"

Although the craftsman was perplexed, he said "If ya say so" and undertook the bath construction for my home.

Since it seems like it was leisure time for the workshop, they'll immediately get into the drawing up of the bathtub from today.

Craftsman-san said that he will bring along a few of his disciples and come to my house, and start the work at the site.

The talk is progressing faster than I thought.

Like this, it might make it in time before Sylphy comes back.

I'm really grateful to Craftsman-san.



"What's with this, 'sn't this Dyne's house? 's Myne Dyne's son?"

As I was guiding Craftsman-san around the house, I was suddenly surprised. I've heard that he was Otou-san's friend.

Otou-san, I knew you had a large circle of friends but...

Butcher-san, Alchemist-san, Weapon shop owner-san, Armour shop owner-san... and also Craftsman...

Isn't this a little too wide?

Knowing that I am Otou-san's son, Craftsman's became tremendously pumped up. I heard him muttering that he may tamper with Dyne's house, but he will never tolerate any compromises.

As if he was another person, he called out to his disciples.

"List'n up! Y'all better make this yer best work!"

Aisha and I looked at each other and smiled wryly at his vigour.

Motivated by Craftsman, the disciples also seemed to have gotten pumped up, and in they completed the interior design in a twinkle.

Moreover, it evidently looked more extravagantly made than the previous arrangements.

“C, Craftsman-san... this is grander than what we’ve prepared!”

Although I have some financial leeway, I have something like a budget, so...

“Don’t worry ’bout that, ‘ll go by the previous budget.

Leavin’ that aside, ya should look forward ta’ it, ‘ll make an amazin’ bath which won’t lose even to them high grade inns”

Aah, Craftsman’s behaving recklessly.

I can’t stop it anymore...

In the end, the construction proceeded until late at night, and everything was completed except for the bath heater.

Since he said that the bathroom is off limits for a while for hygiene purposes or something, I haven’t seen the completed bathroom, but it’ll probably become something amazing, huh...

When the craftsmen including the disciples returned, their faces of men who had accomplished something looked strangely impressive.

I wonder if it’s okay, I have a feeling that it will go greatly over the budget, though...

The next day, a disciple-san came over to convey the fact that the work will be suspended today since the drawing up of the bathtub is taking some time.

Disciple-san... those bags under your eyes, don’t tell me that you guys had been going at it since you guys went back??

The day after that was the eighth day since Sylphy headed towards the capital.

If she’s coming back early, then it should be anytime now.

Until then, I want to surprise her with the completion of the bath somehow or another.

Properly speaking, it was arranged for it to be completed today, but... Craftsman acted rashly and will build a bathroom that will surpass even that of high class inns, so it's difficult to say whether it will be completed.

However, I can't possibly ask unreasonable things from the people who have been working hard to complete it in the workshop until they have eyebags.

Morning turned into afternoon, and Craftsman brought his disciples along to my house as I was relaxing.

"Ah've made the best bathtub!"

While saying that with a smile stretching across his whole face, he headed to the bathroom which is under construction.

He seems to have seriously planned on finishing it by today.

I heard this from Craftsman afterwards, but... he said that making the best product and abiding by the construction period even if something happened midway is a craftsman duty.

While it may be true that he was acting rashly, Craftsman worked according to the plan of three days he had stated at first.

Aisha introduced me to a really good craftsman-san, didn't she.

There's also the matter of Otou-san, but this attitude is something I should learn a lot from.

...Well, I think the disciples surely had some suicidal thoughts, though.
I'm really sorry!

About two hours later... the bath Craftsman put his all into had been completed.

"There's some time fer hygienic purposes, so won'cha do me a favour and use it tomorrow? Ah, this really is a masterpiece"

The original price we agreed on was 800 gold coins.

However, looking at the completed bathroom, that would be inexcusable for its quality, even when a layman such as I look at it.

As I took a look at the completed bathroom, it was an extravagant bathroom, bigger than the bathroom at the Silver Bell Pavilion we stayed at in the Town Adol. It being big is a matter of course, since I requested for a largish bathroom, but seeing it and hearing it is completely different.

Furthermore, according to Craftsman, the floor is made from something rock (I heard the name but don't quite remember), a high grade material. It seems that this stone is hard to slip on and water dries easily so its cost is high and definitely something used in bathrooms.

Moreover, the walls are covered with planks that let out a nice smell. As if in a forest, the fragrance calms one's nerves, and is also quite the expensive material.

And then there's the bathtub. This bathtub seem to be made of a different high grade material from the floorboards, and has a beautiful glossy black finish.

Furthermore, very small decorations are engraved into it, and looks like a work of art.

The holes I've requested for putting the pebbles in were also precisely made. It can be said that the workmanship doesn't even lose to high grade inns', just as Craftsman had said.

I expressed my gratitude towards Craftsman, and handed over 10 platinum coins for the cost.

Although it was more than the previous cost, I still felt that it wasn't enough.

Although Craftsman firmly refused it, Aisha and I bowed as we said that it was our heartfelt gratitude, and he reluctantly accepted it.

At any rate, the long-awaited bath has been completed.

Let's look forward to entering it tomorrow.

CHAPTER 53

ALTO AUGUSTA

Finally the ban on bath is lifted!

The “hygiene waiting period” which was told by Craftsman is over, I can finally get into the bath at home!

As soon as I wake up, I decided to head for the bathroom.

Since Aisha is still sleeping beside me, I quietly slip out of the futon to avoid waking her up.

As soon as I had entered the bathroom, there was a nice fragrance of forest I cannot describe wafting in the air.

You can kinda relax like this!

Immediately, I took out five [Continuous: Water] pebbles from the storage bag and put them into the open dent on the top part of the bathtub.

Water accumulate at an amazing momentum by putting the pebbles one by one at each side.

I put a pebble with [Continuous: Heat] in the dent around the bottom of the water tub where water flows through.

Then, I pasted 5 [Continuous: Heat] to the pebbles of each side.

Shortly after that, the water had steadily warm up and the steam rises.

Yosh, it's a success!... I was delighted for a moment but it was a massive failure.

Gradually, the water went pass hot bath and turned into scalding water, and when it was full, the water started boiling.

Not good! The heat is too strong!!!

I immediately cut [Continuous: Heat] and return it to the original pebble. I also take out [Continuous: Water] in the same way and toss both pebbles into the storage bag.

I was stunned looking at the bath tub that looks like a hellish iron pot from picture books.

“...Now I’ve gone and done it, what should I do with this...”

As expected, I have no other choice but to drain the hot water and dilute it, do I? As I open the lid of drainage port attached to the side of the bath tub, the boiling water drained out along with an intense steam.

When the hot water level drop to half, I close the lid of the drainage port. Since it’ll be troubling if I’m scalded by hot water, I did not forget to paste [Regeneration] and activated [Fire Attribute • Resistance] just in case.

After I closed the lid and confirmed that I’m safe, I return [Regeneration] to the original pebble. This time, I install [Continuous: Water]x3 once more at the upper dent.

Phew, it seems that this time it went well.

This might be difficult for me until I get used to it...

Well, in any case, the bath is hot enough. Immediately, I removed my pyjamas and submerged myself till the shoulder.

“Ooh ♪”

...What a nice feeling. Although the morning bath that I got in at the Silver Bell Pavilion was also very comfortable, this bath is even more comfortable.

I am not only able to get rid of my fatigue, somehow, I get a feeling that my power is also gradually increasing. Furthermore, this fragrance of the wood is so nice too.

“Myne-kun, are you taking a bath?”

Hm, it seems something like this happened before...

“U, un...”

As I answered, sure enough, a naked Aisha entered.

“Ehehe, I’m here”

Just like that, I entered the morning bath together with Aisha again and both of us got out together after we were satisfied.



Naturally, the topic that we discussed during breakfast is about the bath.

“Isn’t it an awesome bath? It feels even better than the one at Silver Bell Pavilion!”

“Yeah, somehow my body is still nice and warm”

“The craftsmen worked hard, didn’t they? We should really offer them our gratitude”

Just when we are about to get excited on the topic, I heard some voices from the entrance.

When I am about to stand up, Aisha said “I’ll do it”, stands up and walk to the entrance.

“Eh!?”

...Hmm? Aisha rose a surprised voice, I wonder what’s wrong?

When I was about to stand up to go to see the the situation, Aisha came back with a troubled look.

I wonder why?

...Hmm? There’s someone behind her.

Ah, if it isn’t Slyphy! You’re a little early, aren’t you, tte, there’s another man I don’t know with her?

Who in the world is he? I’ve never seen him before...



“Danna, let me introduce my brother to you.”

“I am Alto • Augusta, you’re my sister’s fiance... huh”

This unknown man... rather, the First Prince of the country, that is, the next King is sitting in front of me is observing me fixedly.

Aisha knows Ouji from before, huh, she seems to be shrinking back in fear.

“I’m sorry, Danna-sama... Aniue asked to come no matter what... I had told him to wait at the Imperial City until we were coming... but as you can see, he was obstinate about it.”

Sylphy bowed her head apologetically.

“Actually my brother is something like a siscon... He is not exactly pleased with the fact that I will be married off...

That’s why he said that he wanted to see with his own eyes if my companion is a worthy one and come along forcibly”

“Um, ahem!”

He probably heard Sylphy’s whisper.
Ouji-sama unnaturally clears his throat.

However, isn’t it natural to be concerned?
If one hears that their adorable little princess sister will be married to a commoner like me, I think it is definitely normal to worry about it.
He’s not a siscon, it is just natural in this case.

Since I’ve decided to make both of them my family, though the wedding was decided through the turn of events, I’ll have to make him recognise it somehow or another!

“...Come to think of it, why’s Sacred Bow-dono here?”

When I wanted to change the topic, Ouji-sama suddenly asked about Aisha.
If he is calling Aisha by her title, perhaps they are also acquainted like Sylphy does?

“Hm? I didn’t tell Aninue huh, Aisha’s marrying Danna-sama together with me”

As Sylphy said that, I had a feeling that I saw Prince’s temple twitched.

Aah, he might be offended...

Well, polygamy leaves a bad image, after all.

I wonder if by any chance his impression of me had just turned for the worst?

“...Well, that’s fine, I guess. By the way, you’re called Myne, huh.

If possible, won’t you show me your true strength? I’m entrusting my important little sister to you, after all.

My sister... no, there’s also Sacred Bow-dono, huh, I want to confirm as a brother and as a man, whether you have what it takes to protect the two ladies”

Un, when I marry Sylphy, he’ll become my brother-in-law.

I want to get along with him and have him approve of me.

Let’s do this!

“Yes! Please!”

I reply full of spirit as usual.

“Oh, excellent response. Let’s have a bout at once, then”

Alto • Augusta

Race: Hume

LV: 43

Gender: Male

Age: 26 years old

Occupation: First Prince of Augusta Kingdom

[Skills]

One-handed blade • Saint LV7

Physical Strength Enhancement • Large LV6

Support Magic • Speed Increase LV5

Wow, amazing... His skill configuration is almost identical to King-sama. No, he even possesses support magic.

Is this the reason that Aisha said about advantage of promoting marriage among royalty!?

But, if we are talking about Skill configuration itself, I think now mine is probably overwhelming one way or the other.

The problem is to what extent can I use my Skills, isn't it.

I wonder if I should shorten the battle time as much as possible to limit my Skills and hide them.

...But, it is not good if he won't recognize me as a man he can entrust Sylphy to. Let's fight fair and square even if it turns disadvantageous!

"Let me say this first, this is, in the end, a mock battle.

So, please understand that rash and excessive action is forbidden."

"Yes!"

"Umu, excellent reply! Now, display your power of soloing an Orc • King to your heart's content"

Having said so, he bring out a dagger made of wood and throw to me.

When I received it, Prince-sama had already entered battle stance with a one-handed wooden sword.

Unwillingly, I also hold the wood dagger and take my stand.

In order to cope with Prince-sama, I activated [Body Enhancement • Large LV3], [Physical Strength Enhancement • Extreme LV2] and [Leg Strength Enhancement • Small LV3].

"...Oh, I see, Why aren't you coming at me?"

Perharps he knew that I strengthened myself. Ouji-sama's body shone faintly and the stance became more intense.

Ouji-sama had also... used the Skills.

“If you are not coming, then I’ll go!”

Prince-sama suddenly came in at an incredible speed!!

Eh? W, what!? What’s with this speed even though he doesn’t have [Leg Strength Enhancement]!?

Ah, I see... So it’s[Support Magic • Speed Enhancement]!

While I was surprised by the movement, Prince-sama’s figure had disappeared from my sight.

“Ugaa!!!”

While I haven’t realised what happened, my right side received a tremendously heavy impact.

Without any preparedness, I was blown off several meters away from where I was.

“W, what in the world happened...”

While I said that and tried to stand, Ouji-sama had brandished and swung down his wooden sword in front of my eyes.

I tried blocking it right away with the dagger in my hand but the remnant force sent it flying from my hand.

Ouji-sama’s one-handed sword then hit my right shoulder.

“Ugu”

“You’re full of openings!! Read your opponent’s movements more!”

No good, he is absurdly strong...

Why is he so strong even though he doesn’t have as many Skills as I do...

I applied [Magic • Large Recovery] as first aid for the damages and used [Support Magic • Gradual Recovery Large (Vitality) LV2].

[...Hmm... This time he’s recovering... Very interesting]

He seems to me muttering something, but I can do it if it's now!
This time it is my turn!!

I activated [Swift Feet (Small) LV2] and charged at full strength to slip into Ouji-sama's torso.

"Umu, that's right! This fighting spirit is important!... However"

Ignoring Ouji-sama's muttering, I got close to Ouji-sama and swung my right arm aiming at his stomach in one go.

There's also [Grappling • Extreme LV4], I won't let you get away!

...but, my all out attack did not even graze Ouji-sama. On the contrary, his counter hit me, and blew me off again.
No way, why didn't it hit...

When I had been blown away, I probably hit my head, blood was flowing out from my forehead.

"Aniue, you're overdoing it! Please stop!!"
"Myne-kun!!"

I can hear Sylphy and Aisha's shouts.

...A, as if I'll lose...

I stood up while wobbling, and tried to take some kind of stance.

"...You show quite the promise. But you'll have to know your own strength more and refine your techniques.
Use this defeat to strengthen yourself!!!"

Ouji-sama's words was the last thing I heard before my consciousness fell into the darkness.

CHAPTER 54

CASE: ALTO

“I’m Alto Augusta, you’re my sister’s fiance... huh”

The man my beloved little sister chose is this Myne or something, huh.
From my first impression of him, honestly, he doesn’t look that strong.

However, my little sister’s personally marrying into his family, so he should have quite the ability.

He’s even said to have defeated an Orc King, after all.

However, 15 years old... I’ve heard that he just came of age, but I can see that he’s truly hasn’t undergo enough tempering.

...Can he really fight with this?

I’ve heard from reports that his Skills are [Appraisal • Complete] and [Cut & Paste].
Chichiue’s opinion is that he has some kind of secret aside from this, but...

Well, whatever.

I have no interest in what he’s hiding.

However, is this lad a man who can really protect my little sister from now on?
If I don’t make sure of that, I will never be able to approve of this man, and it will only be a disaster for him.

As I pondered upon it, I thought that even Sacred Bow-dono is marrying into his home.

Fumu... Let’s use this.

“...Well, that’s fine, I guess. By the way, you’re called Myne, huh.

If possible, won’t you show me your true strength? I’m entrusting my important little sister to you, after all.

My sister... no, there’s also Sacred Bow-dono, huh, I want to confirm as a brother and as a man, whether you have what it takes to protect the two ladies”

Yosh, with this, though it's a little underhanded, the stage is set.
All's left is literally to measure his ability.



There can't be deaths in a mock battle, after all.
We decided to use wooden swords, not real ones.

He probably can't come at me seriously with real swords.
If that's the case, I can't accomplish my objective of judging whether his true strength is worthy of taking Sylphy as his wife.

Also, it might be called a wooden sword, but it is constructed through charging magical power into raw ebony by the Royal Magician.
It is a much more powerful weapon compared to real but poorly-made swords.

Although nobody will die, there might be one or two injuries.
Well, Sacred Bow-dono is here, so they can be healed immediately.

...Now then.
Finally, he seems to be getting into it.

Hm? Did he just cast some kind of self-enhancement?
...There's a faint luminescence on him.

Hmph, so this is the secret he was hiding. Certainly, if I take this lightly, I would be the one experiencing pain.

I'll use [Physical Strength Enhancement • Large] and [Support Magic • Speed Increase] too.

"...Oh... why aren't you coming at me?"

Now then, let's have a go!

"If you're not coming, then I'll go!"

I plunged towards his bosom with all my might.

...Is my speed out of your expectations? Do you think you have any time to be surprised in the middle of a battle!? You're full of openings!

Making a feint, I went around to his blind spot.

I don't know what self-enhancement you casted, but since you did... you won't die!!

I aimed at his right flank and swung my sword greatly.

He took the shock directly and was comically blown off.

...However, what is this feeling? It's not like he used a Skill to defend or anything.

What in the world is it? I felt like this shock became excessively dull, but... Is he wearing something?

Well, whatever.

I understood from that exchange.

His battle techniques are no doubt similar to a novice.

I understood completely from the way he moved and used something.

Though he certainly has quite the talent, he can't make use of it at all.

...Let's try cornering him a little more.

I moved to pursuit him who had been blown off.

"W, what in the world happened..."

He didn't seem to have seen the exchange.

Standing right in front of him, I swung my sword right down on him.

Defending with a dagger? His situation assessment also seems to be naive.

If he receives a swing from a one-handed sword using a dagger... See that?

You've lost the only weapon you have, you see? What are you going to do now? How are you going to fight without a weapon?

The wooden sword I wielded crushed his dagger, and hit his right shoulder tip.

“You’re full of openings!! Read your opponent’s movements more!”

With his level, there’s no way he can defeat an Orc King.

That is different from a low class monster which moves by instinct, it has intelligence, and has an abnormal strength.

There is absolutely no possibility he defeated that.

However, he did defeat such an Orc King.

Does that mean he still isn’t serious?

...Hm? What? Is he recovering?

I see, interesting.

[...Fumu... This time he’s recovering... Very interesting]

Is this a part of the power he used to defeat the Orc King?

Interesting, show me your power! Use that power to defeat this magnificent me!

Oh, this is quite the drastic charge than before.

Is he going to use another Skill? That’s quite the movement.

However, I wonder how many tricks does he have up his sleeve.

That’s really something.

Furthermore, even though he already lost his weapon, his mental strength in not giving up the match is quite worthy of note.

There are even some among the knights who would give up at this point.

Well if he gave up with just this, there’s no way I’d hand Sylphy over to him.

While I was thinking that, his right arm was heading towards me at an outrageous speed.

[Wh!?!]

I avoided it in a panic and countered.

My counter splendidly succeeded, and he was once again blown off to his back.

...That was close, I could somehow counter since he left a big opening, but if I took that, as expected, it would have been bad, even for me.

I've never heard of such a sharp wind cutting noise that was coming out from his fist.

"Aniue, you're overdoing it! Please stop!!"

"Myne-kun!!"

I heard Sylphy and Sacred Bow-dono's shouts.

Aah, I see... he got a cut on his forehead when he was blown off, huh?

They're kicking up a fuss because blood is coming out from it, huh.

Although it's a mock battle, Sylphy stopping it with just this...

As expected, even the Princess General became soft when it comes to her fiancé.

However, that doesn't mean that he has lost.

He stood up, though staggering, and showed that he will fight.

It won't look good if girls barged in here, and he stood up as a man desiring to seriously win.

Answering to that would be proper manners.

...Though I said that, as expected, he seemed to have received damage from the previous counter.

Though his attack was fast, it instead backfired.

The strength from the ebony sword, his own strength, and on top of that, my Skills [Physical Strength Enhancement • Large] and [One-handed Sword • Sacred].

He's quite something to be able to even stand.

Fumu, he's still inexperienced. No doubt with that.

However, if he really studied battles, he would probably become outrageously strong.

I could see that without a doubt.

His desire to win and him standing up, though wobbling, is also worthy of note.

I also don't think he is bad, personality-wise.

I see, the person Sylphy's marrying... is perhaps a good person, huh.
It can't be helped, I'll approve of you.

"...You show quite the promise. But you'll have to know your own strength more and refine your techniques.

Use this defeat to strengthen yourself!!!"

Let's end this battle.

There's a lot to talk about after that.

CHAPTER 55

TURNING POINT

“...Mmn, this place is...”

While shaking my dazed head, I sat up and observed the surroundings. It seems to be my house, why had I been sleeping, I wonder...

“Myne-kun!! Thank goodness you came to!!”

I heard Aisha’s shout.

“I... Ah, I remembered. I lost... to Ouji-sama... huh”

It appears that Aisha used recovery magic. Although my head is still dizzy, the pain all over my body has nearly come off.

When I thanked Aisha and looked at her face, her eyes were really red, she probably cried her eyes out. It seems I had made her worried.

As I apologised to Aisha, the perpetrator who had beaten me black and blue entered the room.

“Oh, you’ve woken up?”
“Aniue, our conversation is not finished yet!”

While Slyphy is being mad at him, Ouji-sama call out to me with a strange grin. However, the enraged Slyphy came chasing after him, so the atmosphere didn’t become calm at all...

“How is your body? Since Holy Bow-dono had applied Recovery on you, I suppose most of the damage is gone?”

Ouji-sama who doesn’t care about Sylphy’s scoldings at all, is worrying about my condition.

The damage is certainly gone, I guess.

It's impossible if you tell me to "Go all out!", but normal movement does not seem to be a problem for me.

"Only a little, I'm still a little dazed, but I'm alright."

"Is that so, I went too far... Sorry."

No, I'm the one trouble if the heir to the throne lowers his head.

In the first place, I agreed to accept the mock battle, so I don't have the right to accept the apology.

"No no no, please raise your head! There is no reason to apologize!!"

While waving my hands violently, I called out desperately to get him to raise his head. Then, while looking at me strangely, he raised his head.

"...You're a strange one..."

After that, Aisha and Slyphy who calmed down a little joined us to engage in a lively conversation of four people.

Ouji-sama wanted to hear about the fight with Orc • King but, I cannot explain it in detail without mentioning my Skills, so I could only answer his questions vaguely from the start until the end.

"By the way, Myne, it is already this late, do you mind letting me stay here?"

"No, of course not. It is a messy place but as long as Ouji-sama is willing, please do stay"

"...Can you stop calling me Ouji-sama? You're getting married with Sylphy, then we are going to be brothers-in-law.

I will just call you Myne."

U~n, what should I call him...

As expected, should I take the safe route and call him "Brother-in-law-san"?

"Eeh, ee~to... Brother-in-law-san?"

“...Why the question form... Well, that’s fine.
We’ll become a family, don’t be so reserved.”

Somehow, it feels terribly out of place but... sooner or later I’ll have to get used to it right?

Aisha and Slyphy’s way of calling also felt terribly out of place at first.

After settling Brother-in-law’s staying, Aisha moved to the kitchen to prepare dinner. I decided to help, but my two fiancées strongly opposed me and told me “Please take a break”, so I decided to be obedient.

“Come to think of it, just now I heard from Holy Bow-sama, this house has a considerably splendid bath right?

Since I’m all the way here, do you mind me getting in? “

Ah, that’s right.

Since he’s all the way here, Brother-in-law-san should get in.
Yosh, let’s heat it immediately.

“I understand, let me heat it up first!”

Saying that, I decided to head to the bathroom quickly.

Since I had boiled it in the morning, I can roughly grasp the balance of pebbles. It should be a little bit hot.

It will be nice to enter after eating the meal.

After that, slightly hot water accumulated in the bathtub in about five minutes.

Five [Continuous: Water], four [Continuous: Heat] should heat up the water until it’s slightly hot.

After retrieving the pebbles, as I told Ani-san that the bath is boiled, the meal seems to be ready and the four of us immediately sat down at the dining table.

There’s quite a lot of topics we couldn’t talk about, so although it was fun, it’s a little regrettable that the dinner became one that we had to pay attention to.

...And then, it was the bath but... Why in the world??

“Fuuu, this bath is really splendid. The fragrance of wood is nice, the hotness of the bath is good... it may even be better than the bath in royal palace.”

“...Haa, as long as you are happy with it”

Somehow, as soon as we finished the meal, I was caught by Brother-in-law-san, and the result was us getting into the bath together.

Un, this is outside my expectations.

“By the way, Myne, the match just now... do you understand why you lost?”

...That’s right, if we think about the Skills and levels, it’s unthinkable for me to lose. Even if I lose, it’s difficult to think that I would lose so one-sidedly.

I don’t understand why I lost that one-sidedly.

“...I don’t understand at all...”

“Well, that’s understandable. The previous fight... how many Skills did you use? I feel like it’s four or five, but... well, am I right?”

...He noticed, huh...

I planned to finish it with just the self-strengthening in the beginning so that I can dodge the questions after that, but it was too one-sided, so I used too many in the end.

“.....”

“Aah, don’t misunderstand, I honestly don’t care nor have any interest on what kind of secrets you have at all.

Chichiue seems to quite care about it, but... in the end, Sylphy didn’t say anything about your Skills in the royal palace.

After she said that she didn’t know because she didn’t ask at all, Chichiue persuaded her by saying that it’ll be fine if she tells him once she knows, but she firmly said that she will absolutely not talk about it while shaking her head, you know.

Well, it’s something you don’t want to talk about, right? I don’t mind that.

What I know is that you have some kind of power other than the Skills you were bestowed with. I don't care about the details"

Eh? He doesn't care at all... is he okay with that?
I wonder if it's okay to trust me...

...Also... Sylphy kept her promise with me and didn't say anything.
I see, she didn't say anything... she didn't say it, huh.

I feel really happy...

Huh? Then why did he ask me about the Skills I used in the fight earlier?

"Hahaha, you look like you're wondering about something. Right now, are you thinking
"Why did he ask about my Skills, even though he said he didn't care?"?"

I reflexively nodded.

"Let me see, first of all, you didn't come at me seriously, rather, at full strength because
you don't want to kill me, right?

One more thing, though you made a conviction to try fighting, you probably don't have
much experiencing fighting with a person, right?

The reason you lost in the previous fight... is that your fighting style relies too much
on Skills.

You don't have enough of the experience in the so-called battle sense, or the way to
move your body.

That doesn't matter if you're up against a monster, but if your opponent's another
person, that's a different story"

...I see, now that he mentioned it, the only battle I had with a person was with Lyle.
In addition to that, it was a battle in which I had the first move, and he was probably
careless because he underestimated me.

An enemy with a brain... , and one which is antagonistic, I absolutely don't have any
experience with that.

"That being the case, I'll train you from now on"

"Eh?"

“Did you not hear me? I said that I’ll train you so that I can fight with you”

W, what does he mean!? So suddenly!?

“We’ll become a family, after all.

You must protect my important little sister from now on, so become stronger for that.
Next time, you must certainly win! You hear me, Myne”

H, he... approved of me?

Me? Ouji-sama approved of me, a commoner?

“That said, the difficult talk’s over!

Look, I’ll wash your back for you! Sit over there!”

Like this, Brother-in-law-san officially approved of me as Sylphid’s fiancée, and I obtained a master.

...I who had my back scrubbed at full strength could only endure nothing but the pain.
Has he still not approved of me by any chance!?

...I might as well get Aisha to rinse my back.



I’ve decided, I’ll talk about my Skills.

After I came out of the bath together with Brother-in-law-san, Aisha and Sylphy entered the bath.

While they were in the bath, I thought about many things.

Brother-in-law-san told me that Ou-sama (*TLN: King*) said to Sylphy that she should tell him once she knows about my Skills, but Sylphy declared she will absolutely not tell him.

That she said she will never do anything that Danna-sama hates since she is marrying.

In the end, it all comes down to whether she talks about my Skills or not, whether I trust my partner or my partner trusts me.

I've decided to trust in Aisha and Sylphy.

That they will not tell anyone about my Skills.

And that they will stay with me as a family and trust in me even if they know my secret.

Although I feel somehow Brother-in-law-san won't care if I tell him, I've only just met him, and since he will be training me from now on, I think I can judge whether I can trust him or not soon.



"Phew~, that was wonderful... When did you guys build such an amazing thing?"

While submerging myself till my shoulders, I asked Aisha who entered with me. It wasn't here when we visited this house before, so they built it when I returned to the capital.

"Actually, after Hime-sama departed, the both of us soon went to Adol. We then stayed in a high-class inn, and Myne-kun... seem to like the bath and said that he will build it once we returned home. He kept saying that it would probably make Hime-sama happy and he wanted to do something before Hime-sama comes back"

I see, he said something like that, huh... No good, my face is slackening by itself. Probably because I don't have any experience associating with the opposite sex up until now, I'm happy with such a trivial thing.

"B, by the way, has anything changed while I was absent?"

I asked such a question to hide my embarrassment. As I did that, Aisha's expression clouded a little, and as I called out "You alright?", she suddenly bowed her head.

"...I am very sorry, I have disregarded Hime-sama, and made love with Myne-kun"

Hm~mm?

Made love?

...What!?

“...Explain to me in detail”

My tone naturally became stern while I wasn't aware.

Aisha said that Danna-sama said that he wanted to hunt trolls, so they went to the town of labyrinth, Adol.

When they stayed at the inn, some trouble occurred, originally they planned to take separate rooms, but they could only get one room.

That night, asked by Danna-sama, they then had sex.

...Requested by Danna-sama, that means, I can't say anything about that, huh.

In the first place, it's not that like he had a relationship with a passing woman.

Since he made love with Aisha, who like me, will also become Danna-sama's wife, there isn't any problem..... That's right, there isn't any.

However, there's this gloomy something coming out from my heart.

“...I see, if the partner's none other than Aisha, it's inevitable, I guess.

Instead, tonight I will get him to love me. No objections?”

Yosh, I've gotten Aisha's approval.

I'm quite nervous, but at any rate, it's necessary to make a baby.

Let's do this.

“...Ah, Hime-sama... didn't His Highness Alto said that he will sleep in Myne-kun's room?”

!!!!!!

Aah, come to think of it... he did say that, didn't he!?

D, Dammit, this older brother of mine!!!

How far do you plan on being a hindrance to me, huh, I'll never forgive you!!!

“Huh? Brother-in-law-san, what's wrong?”

“No, for some reason I suddenly felt a chill down my back...”

“...I see”

CHAPTER 56

HAPPY FAMILY CIRCLE

Morning, as soon as I woke up, Alto-san who had been sleeping on the floor wasn't here.

"...I wonder where he went?"

Since the inside of his futon is still warm, it shouldn't have been that long since he exited the room.

By the way, when he heard that he would be sleeping in my room, I told Alto-san, "Please use the bed I always sleep in".

"I don't mind sleeping on the floor, I won't ask for anything luxurious, since I suddenly came here"

Saying that, he firmly refused.

Good grief, it's unsettling since his attitude is considerably different compared to when we first met yesterday.

"He's a brother who normally can be looked up to, but..." said Sylphy as she let out a strained laugh, so this is probably his true appearance, huh.

Appearing all of a sudden and battling... I was thinking what in the world is wrong, but well, that's how it is, I guess?

While thinking such things, I stretched my body.

Hearing the cracking sounds of the bones from my back truly feels good.

"...Yosh, let's work hard today as well!"

While saying that, I jumped out from my bed and headed towards the well to wash my face.

The peculiar fresh morning air feels great, and I can feel it revitalising my half-awake

body little by little.

Un, though I always felt this way, but waking up in the morning really feels good, doesn't it!

I drew some well water and splashed my face with it.

Come to think of it, well water can be used to make potions, so does this mean that the magic water from [Continuous: Water] can be used to make something??

I wonder if I should try experimenting on it?

While thinking about that, I headed towards the kitchen, and Aisha and Sylphy had already made breakfast.

"Good morning!"

As usual, I cheerfully greeted them.

It's my family's important rule that I took over from Otou-san and Okaa-san.

Lively greetings are magic words which can fill me and the people surrounding me with energy.

My two fiancées who heard my 'Good morning!', looked at each other and replied with lively greetings.

"Good morning!"

"Morning!"

We merely exchanged greetings... but laughter naturally filled the room.

"Should I help too?"

"No, it'll be good if Danna-sama takes a sit and wait for us"

"That's right, even though it Hime-sama's first time cooking, she was quite fired up in making it!"

First time cooking, if I remember correctly, Sylphy doesn't have the Cooking Skill, does she?

...I'm a little worried...

They probably guessed my feeling, Sylphy made a complicated face at being exposed and Aisha giggled.

...Haven't these two gotten quite close strangely?

There's also Aisha's way of calling. Though it hasn't changed from 'Hime-sama', I have a feeling her restraint, sense of distance, or something has changed.

They got into the bath together yesterday, and even slept together in Aisha's room, surely, that's okay right?

Un, getting along is a good thing! After all, we'll become a family after this.

"Don't worry, Myne-kun. Look forward to Hime-sama's handmade cooking! Of course, mine too"

Well, if that's what she says, I won't lend a hand.
Let's obediently sit and wait for them.

"...By the way, do you know where Alto-san is?"

"If it's Anie, he's training. It's his daily routine"

I see, as expected, habitual training is important, isn't it?

I wonder if it's okay for me to train together with him? He trained me yesterday, after all.

"Aah, it's okay even if Danna-sama doesn't go, there's still some fatigue and damage from yesterday, right?"

Anie said that it's okay even if Danna-sama doesn't come after waking up"

...Perhaps, he cared for me seeing me sleeping like a log?

If that's the case, it'll be the correct choice to accept his goodwill, un, let's sit here quietly.

Therefore, I decided to sit in the living room and quietly wait.

A short time later, an extremely delicious-smelling scent wafted over from the kitchen.

Probably lured by the smell, Alto-san returned from his morning training while wiping his sweat with a towel.

“Good morning! Thank you for the hard work you put in training!”

He replied my greeting a little shyly with “Aah, good mornin”.

Un, as expected, greetings are magic words.

“Are you okay now? Though it was a mock battle, I went a little too far.

I don’t think there’s much damage left after immediately entering the bath.

If there’s anything you’re worried about, tell Sacred Bow-dono and let her heal you”

Looking at Alto-san awkwardly worrying about my health while scratching his cheek, I unintentionally chuckled.

He seems to have been caught by Sylphy before he went out for training and was lectured as yesterday’s continuation.

I heard from Sylphy that Alto-san is a siskon, but as expected, he’s weak when it comes to being lectured by his little sister.

As we had that conversation, Aisha and Sylphy carried out the breakfast they had just made.

“...Aniue, have you properly apologised to Danna-sama?”

While setting the table, Sylphy glanced at Alto-san and glared at him.

As she did that, he awkwardly turned his head towards me and said “Sorry”.

Since I didn’t mind it that much, rather, since time passed by as I couldn’t understand the sudden turn of events, I wasn’t aware of what had happened.

That’s why I honestly said “It’s okay, I don’t mind”, and Alto-san felt relieved while I admired him for some reason.

The apology? for now has ended, and we started having our enjoyable breakfast.

“Which one did Sylphy make?”

“Aniue, why don’t you restrain yourself a little, it’s my first home cooking, you know. I worked hard to let Danna-sama eat it”

“No, exactly because it’s my little sister’s first home cooking, I...”

Although the meals I ate with Aisha was also fun, the food is even more delicious with four people chatting like this!

Family is such a happy and fun thing, isn’t it!

The meals I ate with Otou-san and Okaa-san were also delicious, but today’s breakfast has a special deliciousness.

We enjoyed chatting for a while, but Alto-san returned to a little serious face, and started talking to me.

“Myne, since you have to conduct the marriage ceremony with Sylphy and Sacred Bow-dono, you’re coming to the capital in a few days, right?

I was thinking about conducting an all-out training there.

I’ll leave the contents for your desired training until you come to the capital, so don’t you skip out on it.

Even with how I look, I am a prince. I also have things I have to do in the capital.

Though I want to train you here the whole time...”

I’ve heard that Alto-san is in charge of the training for the chivalric order.

The schedule for the training is approaching, so he has to return to the capital.

I tried asking him why he trained me even though he’s so busy, and he replied that he took a fancy to me with a hearty laugh, and clapped my back.

Sylphy, Aisha, it hurts, so can you please stop it for me?

Don’t just stand there and laugh.

I heard from Sylphy later that Alto-san was quite against the wedding at the beginning, so his reaction was outside her expectations.

I don’t quite know what in me did he took a liking to, but it’s a good thing that I can get along well with my wife’s family, isn’t it?

Finishing our fun breakfast, Alto-san wrote the training program and the things I need to pay attention in the way I move my body on a memo with small handwriting and

handed it over to me, and he then returned to the capital.

The memo he handed me is easy to understand and very carefully written. I could see that he took a considerable amount of time in writing it.

To me, this memo is an important treasure.

I'm grateful to Alto-san from the bottom of my heart.

Now then, Alto-san is gone, and in this house is only me and my two fiancées.

At last, the time to confess my secret has come.

I wonder what kind of response they will have...

Honestly, the dread is too much.

However, on the other hand, I am also anticipating it.

Now, let's summon up my courage and confess.

CHAPTER 57

MYNE'S DETERMINATION, SYLPHY'S DECISION

After Alto-san returned to the capital, called Aisha and Sylphy to the reception room, and began speaking.

"...I have something to talk the two of you"

I think it's because I am nervous and making a serious face.

The both of them waited for my next words with a serious expression.

"I am thinking of telling the both of you about my Skills"

They probably didn't expect it.

Both of them suddenly stopped moving.

After that was a moment of silence.

I and the girls continued to not speak.

The first one to break the silence was Sylphy.

"...Is that really okay?"

I nodded silently at that question.

Aisha still couldn't hide her shocked expression, she moved her mouth to say something but immediately shut it, as she couldn't find any words.

She repeated that motion.

"The secret Danna-sama can't tell not just us, but anyone about.

After Anie just went back, talking to us means that you trust us, is that okay?"

Sylphy asked me once more who gave a sidelong glance at the stiff Aisha.

Even at that question, I returned a nod silently.

“...Hmm”

Sylphy placed her put her right index finger on her nicely shaped lips, and pondered on something.

Silence then once again flowed between us.

Un, that’s understandable.

I suddenly said that I will talk about the secret which I had kept even when I was erased from the guild.

Their reactions are understandable.

“...There’s something I would like you to confirm one thing before listening about that”

Sylphy had probably collected her thoughts, as she confirmed with me again. Naturally, my reply was “Un”.

However, I wonder what she wants to confirm??

“Is it true that the thing Danna-sama is keeping a secret will become something bad if people know about it?”

Un? Why is such a confirmation necessary... But, since she told me to answer, I have to.

“...Un, that’s right”

“...I understand. In that case, Danna-sama, won’t you wait for a while longer before telling us about it?”

Eh!? Why??

“I think it’s natural that Danna-sama has doubts.

Just now, Danna-sama said that you wanted to talk about it because you trust us.

However, putting Aisha aside, I don’t think there has been any actual results for trusting me.

From now on, we will be starting activities as a Clan.

...Actually, Chichiue said that he wants to make a request once the Clan is officially

formed.

What do you think, won't you be able to at least make sure of me and Aisha while receiving the request?"

...Her proposal was too unexpected.

When we met at first, she came to ask me about my Skills.
I never thought that she would reply like this.

However, I realised after Sylphy said that.
...I was surely too impatient.

I have been alone ever since Otou-san and Okaa-san left me.

I had my meals alone, and even if I said "I'm back", nobody will reply.
I thought that such a life was natural.

...However, things have changed.
Aisha and Sylphy are here.

I've gotten a family.

...That is why, I thought that I want to quickly open up about my secret and become a real family with them.
I thought that I would become at ease once I told them about it.

We will certainly be living together from now on, so I have to tell them about it one day.
However, that's not how you become a real family, is it.

It's not only a pretense, a family is trusting each other from the bottom of the heart, like how I did with Otou-san and Okaa-san.

Confidence is to believe in someone and make use of them.
Trust is to believe in someone and rely on them.

I think, if a family doesn't have trust, then that isn't good.
Trust is as Sylphy said, takes time and is slowly built.

“...I understand, is Aisha also okay with that?”

She seemed to have calmed down completely, and Aisha also approved of Sylphy's proposal.

“It's okay not to rush it, just take it slowly, okay?”

“Just knowing Danna-sama's feelings in wanting to talk to us about it is enough for now”

The mood calmed down all of a sudden.
My nervousness was definitely at fault, huh.

Un, it's surely okay with this.



“By the way, Sylphy, did you hear from Aisha? About the Labyrinth of Strength”

Aisha seemed to have talk about the general details,... Well, of course, they were together yesterday night, after all.

If she's already heard about it, that will make things quick.

“Here, Sylphy's souvenir”

As I said that, I took out the Troll Gazer's drop, “Linus Sword” from the storage bag. I feel hat she will definitely be able to use it well since she has [One-handed sword • Extreme].

“...This, this is amazing... is it okay for me to have this? I haven't done anything, though...”

“Un, of course. It's useless for me and Aisha to have it, after all”

Looking at Sylphy's delighted expression, I reflexively broke into a smile.
Un un, this is good.

Then, I took out “Speed Shoes” and “Ciel Soulier”.

It's a movement speed increasing pair of shoes. I have no need for it since I have [Swift Feet (Small)].

The problem is who "Ciel Soulier" should be handed to.

Dropped items are basically attached with a magic which will automatically alter it according to the size of the person equipping it, so any one of us can use it.

By the way, the equipments sold at stores have to be properly chosen so that it fits.

If I think about who will be fighting ahead, then would Sylphy be the better choice? If someone can walk on air, there will be more freedom in attacking... though practice will be necessary.

"Well, this will be Sylphy's and this will be Aisha's"

By the way, "Speed shoes" are shoes with a simple pattern, black cloth with white lines on it.

"Ciel Soulier" also has a similar pattern, but it has a smarter feel, it is white.

Since I've heard that Sylphy puts on a pure white surcoat when fighting, its colour might also fit her.

"Is Aisha's... Speed Shoes?"

My white one... looks quite similar, but it's a little different, huh.

It seems like it'll match with my surcoat"

She seems to know about "Speed Shoes".

Well, Cass-san was aiming for it, so it should be quite famous.

Probably since "Ciel Soulier" is a rare drop from a rare monster, nobody knows about it.

That's good, Aisha and Sylphy both seem to like them.

Now then, after this... I'll need to hear about the things at the capital from Sylphy.

CHAPTER 58

VARIOUS THINGS, DECIDED

“For now, Sylphy. Can you tell me about what happened in the capital?”

As I said that, Sylphy said “Alright” and started talking.

“Firstly, our marriage has been approved.

Since there’s the preparations at the temple and the selection of guests, it’ll take some time, we’ll go to the capital.

It has been quite a while since there was a marriage in the royal family, so I think the scale will be quite large.”

Eh? We’re having a marriage ceremony?

Quite large-scaled she says... I see, that’s understandable, I guess...

The First Princess is marrying, after all.

Well, that is important, isn’t it.

I wonder if it’s really okay for a commoner like me to be her partner... Though they agreed, I still have some worries.

“There certainly is no choice but for the scale to be large. Hime-sama is really popular, after all...”

Though I didn’t know, speaking of the Princess Knight Sylphid, because of her looks and strength, she seems to be treated as the commoners’ idol.

There seems to be a lot of youngsters who admire her and hope to join the chivalric order.

Everyone understands the fact that the royal family attaches importance to Skills when it comes to marriage, yet there is an unceasing line of young nobles who apply for marriage with her.

I was surprised when I heard about it, there was even a Marquis over 50 years old who applied for a second wife.

Of course, it is hard for an over 50 year old man to have many kids, and Ou-sama said that it was out of the question and directly refused him.

This time, the fact that she is marrying has spread within the capital endlessly, and the hottest topic seems to be the question “Who is she marrying?”.

Uu, my stomach hurts...

Perhaps the nobles who were trying to court Sylphy will pick a fight with me...

“Danna-sama, I understand your worrying, but... it’s no use getting nervous from now, you know”

Looking at my condition, Sylphy called out to me.

“...But there’s a lot of nobles proposing to Sylphy, isn’t there?
Won’t they not be pleased with a commoner like me as your partner?
I’m scared that they will say something...”

“I think it’ll probably be alright, though? This marriage has been formally approved by Chichiue.

If an idiot who tries to pick a fight with Danna-sama appears, it’d be as if flinging mud at Chichiue.

There probably isn’t an idiot who would go that far”

...Though that’s what Sylphy says, there are such idiots in this world.

There’s Hyold who picked a fight with me in the guild, and Lyle who tried to kill me, thinking about what will happen after this, I can understand, but...

“Well, if there is such a guy, Anieue probably won’t stay silent.
Danna-sama doesn’t need to worry”

I see, Alto-san will help me, right?

...I feel a little relieved now.

For now, I understand that the marriage ceremony will be grand.
I’ll have to prepare myself.

“By the way, Aisha, you’re seem calm, but you’re coming too, you know? Do you understand that?”

Sylphy dropped a bombshell on Aisha without hesitation.

“Fue!?”

Aisha raised her voice in surprise at the talk suddenly turning onto her.

“Eh, eh, eh!?! Me too!!?”

“Well, of course.

The nobles will start making a noise afterwards if Danna-sama's wives increased.

Aisha is after all, famous as Sacred Bow.

Isn't it better to end the troublesome things in one go"

After Sylphy said that, Aisha felt down.

I tapped the dejected Aisha's shoulders, and sent her a signal "Just give up" with my eyes.

Her beauty would go to waste if she had teary eyes.

“That being the case, we’ll be contacted from the capital once their preparations have finished.

The both of you should mentally prepare... Shall we proceed to the next topic?"

Aisha and I nodded in return to Sylphy's question.

Seeing that, Sylphy also nodded, and started talking.

“Next is about the establishment of the Clan, this was also approved.

We will cooperate with my little brother's Clan, rather, mutual finance has also been settled.

The details is that they will offer purchase of materials and subjugation requests of specific monsters.

Before the departure, my little brother's Clan purchased the King and Generals I was entrusted with.

The King costs 550 platinum coins, and the generals are 130 platinum coins each, which means three for 390, and the combined total is 940 platinum coins”

N, n, n, 940 platinum coinssssssssssssssssssssssssssss????

Wait a minute, eh? Isn't that a really outrageous amount?

It isn't on the level of building a luxurious bath or something, you know?

"Haha, Danna-sama's a splendid backbone for the family, to be able to earn so much"

As expected of a princess.

She isn't agitated at all at such an outrageous amount, 940 platinum coins.

As I tried glancing at Aisha, she seemed surprised, but I feel like she strangely understand.

Am I the only one surprised by this?

Well, there's no helping it.

I've been working hard just to get one silver coin up until now, after all...

"There's also the Clan's headquarters, Chichiue said that he wanted to build it at the capital, but,

I rejected it since there wasn't a choice but this distant town for Danna-sama.

Either way, the Clan's headquarters is necessary.

Since this house can't do, there's a need to build a building, but... you don't mind, right?"

Aah, I see.

...That's understandable.

There's a possibility that we will receive requests from nobles, this house is as expected, unfit for that, huh.

"Un, I think it's necessary, but... I wonder if our money's enough?"

I can't intuitively know, even if you say building a Clan building.

I wonder how much money it'll cost?

"You don't need to worry about that, Chichiue will pay half as the wedding present, and I also have some savings.

Fortunately, there's a lot of area left over around this house, and the land is extremely cheap.

If Danna-sama says it's okay, I will negotiate with the town headman.

...All that's left is where to ask for the quality goods"

If it's going to the town mayor, then Sylphy is certainly suitable for it.
If a princess discusses with him, he can't just refuse, huh.

I wonder if I should request Craftsman for the building.
He knows Otou-san, and he also build the bath.

I can also entrust it to him with a peace of mind.

"Un, I'll entrust Sylphy with the land, okay?
I'll take over the matter of the building"

"Hm? Do you have something in mind?"

"Un, I was thinking of asking the Craftsman who built the bath. That's if he agrees"

"Aah, there shouldn't be a problem with the Craftsman who built the baths.
Putting the scale aside, it's even more gorgeous compared to the royal family's"

Fumu, it seems to be favourable.
If this matter's over, I should probably turn up at the workshop quickly.

"Yosh, this will be the last matter.
It's about our position after the marriage, like I said before, we will be treated as an emergent noble.
Well, though it's called nobles, it's just a name, so there isn't a land to manage or duty to fulfil.
Also, a house name is needed. Danna-sama, please think about it until the marriage ceremony"

...Name, a name, huh...
I can't think of one at all.

Even if you tell me, a commoner since birth, to think about a house name, there's no way I can think of one.

Aah, what should I do...

CHAPTER 59

THE TOWN'S HERO

Let's put the house name aside for now.
Nothing can be done if nothing comes to mind.

Fortunately, there's still some time left.

"That's all the things which were settled in the capital for now... Next is..."

Hm? There's still something else? Her face's strangely red though...

"...No, it's nothing. Well then, I'll head over to the town headman's place"

"I'll follow Hime-sama, since he's an acquaintance of mine, after all"

She had something she wanted to say, right? It's okay since the person herself said that it's nothing, right?

If Aisha's going to the town headman's place, it'll be reassuring.

At any rate, she is formerly the guild's popular receptionist.
She probably also had a few conversations with him.

"Un, understood! I'll be going to Craftman's place"



"Hime-sama, is it okay to not talk about that?"

Aisha asked me.

She's probably inquiring more deeply about the matter that I didn't say just now.

"...No, it's embarrassing putting it into words, it's really hard to say"

There's no way I can directly say something like I want you to make love to me.
The fact that only Aisha was embraced is one which I cannot turn a blind eye to.

I feel guilty to Aisha, but from my standpoint, I'm the one who will become the legal wife.

A situation where a child is born to the concubine earlier than the princess, the legal wife, must be avoided at all costs.

Of course, it's not impossible that a pregnancy suddenly appears when the Clan's establishment with only the three of us has already been settled, it wouldn't be a laughing matter.

Danna-sama and Aisha also seem to understand that, and are properly using contraception, but...

"Well... at night... I'll say it"

This should be where Aisha and my age differences show.

That's because I'm not accustomed to such things.

The issue between husband and wife is quite the difficult one.

While having such an important, but embarrassing talk, we arrived at the town headman's office.

"Now then, let's enter"

We entered the governmental office.

Although we told the receptionist that we wanted to meet the town headman, we were rejected since we can't meet him without an appointment.

Aah, I see.

She doesn't seem to know who I am, since I have a hood and robe on.

Since I was together with Aisha I completely forgot about that.

I took off my hood, showed my face and once again talked to the receptionist.

Seeing her face as if saying "You're here again?", she probably doesn't know who I am.

As I did that, Aisha sent a signal with her eyes as if saying "Please leave this to me".

"Long time no see, Bilt-san"

As Aisha called out to her, the receptionist Bilt showed a little pondering face. Then, the face and a name probably matched, and she replied to Aisha with a smile.

“Look who’s here, if it isn’t Aisha-san, are you here on a business for the guild?”

After glancing at me, she addressed Aisha.

“No, actually I’ve retired from the guild the other day, today I’m here for a private business”

While saying that, Aisha whispered something into the receptionist’s ears.
...She’s probably telling her about my identity.

Just as I thought, once Aisha finished whispering and separate from her, her eyes opened widely and stared at me.
She then pitifully bowed her head, and fired off words of apology.

“I am deeply sorry!!! To be ignorant of Your Highness Sylphid’s identity, please forgive this rudeness”

“Raise your head, it’s my fault for coming here so suddenly”

Though I told her to raise her head, she didn’t comply.
She was determined to continue apologising.

The talk can’t proceed like this.
Aisha then started talking to her again.

“Isn’t making Hime-sama wait a disrespect?”

As she said that, she started and immediately trembled, stood up with an intense force, and ran off saying “I’ll immediately talk to the town headman”.

U~n, she seems to have quite the extreme personality.
Isn’t it troubling for the receptionist to disappear?

Aisha probably didn’t expect her sudden movements as well.
While smiling wryly, she stared at the path the receptionist ran away on.

Before five minutes had even passed, she returned.
As she was panting violently...

It's not like I learnt this from Aisha, but I couldn't help but smile wryly.

"Your Highness, sorry for the wait. Please let me be your guide to the office"

"...Er, isn't it bad for the receptionist to be absent?"

"There is no problem!"

I don't think it's alright but... well, if the person herself says so, I guess there's no helping it.

I decide to obediently follow her.

"Her Highness Sylphid has arrived"

The receptionist opened the door and entered the room.
We followed her and entered the room as well.

"Your Highness Sylphid, welcome.
I am Xamaba, serving the Town of Lucas"

The town headman who stands up from his seat, offers a couch for reception use and greets from his name to his job.
...Fumu, he seems to be the quite the good statesman.

From my standpoint, I have met a lot of such town representatives, but sometimes they exist.
Those who think only for themselves despite their position as the ruling party.

"Sorry for disturbing your work when you are busy.
I am Sylphid • Augusta, I look forward to working with you"

While sitting on the couch he offered, I apologised for suddenly intruding.

"No, I am happy that Your Highness, famous as the Princess Knight, has come to meet me.

Incidentally, for what has Your Highness come here for”

A royalty suddenly looking for him without an appointment, of course he would be curious about the reason.

Even if he’s not guilty about anything, it does make one uneasy.

“No need to be so guarded, I’m not here for some kind of inspection.

Actually it’s about my marriage, my partner is from this town.

For that reason, I will be troubling this town.

Today, I came here to greet you and also have a little request...”

“Ohh, congratulations!!!

I see... Your Highness is marrying... No! This is an auspicious occasion!

The partner is from this town... Fumu, he is Claude-sama from the Roselia Family, right?”

“No, he’s not a noble. His social status is that of a commoner”

“Oh, a commoner who made Her Highness, famous as the Princess Knight, his own, huh... He’s really enviable.

If possible, can Your Highness tell me his name?”

“He’s a hunter who lives in the back of the town, Myne, a young man who just came of age, you know him?”

“...D, did you say Myne...!? Dyne-san and Yukino-san’s orphan child... that Myne!?”

As soon as he heard Danna-sama’s name, the town mayor’s suddenly changed.

“His father’s name even appears here...”

Hm? Aisha said something interesting.

“What do you mean?”

As I asked Aisha, she said that the Craftsman gave a similar reaction when they went to request for the drawing up of the bath.

The town mayor who heard our conversation agreed, saying “Naturally”.

Carefully asking him, it seems that Danna-sama's parents are this town's benefactors. He didn't tell me in details, but it seems that most of the citizens who have exceeded a certain age is thankful to them, and even now they respect them.

There are a lot of townspeople who support Danna-sama from the shadows, though I think that's also because of his polite behaviour.

Also, even if they never heard of the name Myne, if they only hear that he is Dyne's son, there will be a lot of people who will spare no effort to cooperate.

"...Of course, I am also thankful to Dyne-san and Yukino-san.
I see, Myne-kun is Your Highness's..."

After this, the talk proceeded without a hitch.

About the establishment of our Clan, and the construction of the Clan headquarters.

The mayor gladly gave his permission.

He suggested to overlook the cost of the land and the profit.

This isn't because of my position.

I think that it would be okay even if Danna-sama came, but it's a good thing for Aisha or me to hear about Danna-sama's parents.

Like this, Aisha and I safely completed our objective, and we went back home.

"Hime-sama, the one over there... Isn't it Myne-kun?"

Aisha discovered Danna-sama who was walking a little further from us.

...However, somehow, he looks weird? What happened?

Aisha and I decided to stealthily follow behind Danna-sama without him discovering us.

It would be good if it is something we can help.

CHAPTER 60

BLOOMS OF SUNFLOWERS

Separating from my fiancées, I made my way to Craftsman's workshop.

On the way there, I met Alchemist-san's wife, and while exchanging gossips a little, I informed her of my marriage.

"Araraaraara～"

Something probably caught her attention.
She clung onto it greatly and asked me various questions.

"And, who's the partner??"

"Aisha-san who worked as a receptionist at the guild and... H, Her Highness Sylphid"

"Haa?"

Un, that's understandable.
Madam-san hardened to the point of hilarity. *(TLN: Madam-san because oku-san)*

"S, sorry～, Myne-kun... Oba-san seemed to have heard wrongly.
I heard you said you were marrying two people but～, who is it other than Aisha-chan, you said～?"

Aah, as expected, she can't believe about Sylphy.
Well, even I can't believe it...

However, she seems to know about Aisha.
As expected, I once again felt that she's well-connected because she's a popular receptionist.

"...Her Highness Sylphid, I will be marrying the two of them..."

"Is it that Princess General, Her Highness Sylphid?"

“...Yes”

Madam-san went into an uproar.

Well, I understand... I understand but I'd like you to stop, please.

Madam-san kicking up a fuss attracted the attention of the passer-bys, and they steadily gathered.

After kicking up a terrible fuss, Madam-san finally managed to calm herself down after noticing my teary eyes.

In a panic, she drove the gathered people away, saying, “It's nothing～ Hohoho”.

“S, sorry... Myne-kun... Oba-san got a little surprised”

From the looks of it, I am a little worried, I should give Madam-san a warning to not talk about it.

Even though I told her because she had been taking care of me...

“The official announcement hasn't been made yet, so please never talk about it. If any unfortunate remarks are made, the royal family might be troubled, so...”

Madam-san was probably aware of it as well, as she meekly nodded.

Although Sylphy didn't specifically tell me to keep it a secret, I understood from Madam-san's reaction.

This is something I cannot say.

If I use the royal family as a pretext, I don't think Madam-san would say anything.

“Please do not tell Onii-san as well!”

I emphasised that thoroughly before separating with Madam-san.

...I'm a little worried.

While carrying uneasiness, I finally arrived at Craftman's workshop.

“Good afternoon――――!”

As I gave my usual greetings and entered the workshop, the dwarven woman who had

previously received us greeted me.

“Oh, well, if it isn’t Myne-san? Thank ya fer the other day!”

Since I paid quite a lot for the bath, all the employees seem to have been treated to sake.

I was told that the sake was quite expensive, so everyone seem to have a favourable impression of me.

As I said that I came to discuss with Craftsman, she immediately ran to call him. As usual, the scene of her noisily running looks really pleasant.

I also thought about this when they were building the baths, but every one of the dwarf race’s movements seem to exude their utmost effort, and feels good.

It’s been said that they are a hard-to-please race, but I don’t think that at all.

“Ooh, Myne, huh, thanks fer comin’! How’s the bath?”

Craftsman’s smile stretches across his whole face, as usual, his smiling face looks great.

“Yes! My housemates are also very pleased with it! Thank you for such a wonderful product!”

Craftsman said “Ah see, ah see,” while looking delighted. It must have been a work Craftsman is satisfied with.

Even Sylphy and Alto-san wholeheartedly said that the bath was more wonderful compared to the one at the royal palace.

It’s not really surprising, I guess.

“And, whatja come ‘ere fer?”

“Actually,” I said, and explained to him about my marriage with Aisha and Sylphy, and following the flow, about the establishment of the Clan.

As expected of a master craftsman, he didn’t kick up a fuss like Alchemist-san’s Madam-san.

...Well, he was a little surprised, though.

“Fumu, so～? Ya want us ta build a Clan house, that it?”

“Yes, of course, Craftsman-san may have work right now, so I won’t ask the impossible, though...”

As I said that, Craftsman folded his arms and pondered.

Then, he said something to the receptionist.

They were deep in talk for a while, but seem to have settled on something and talked to me.

“When should we start?”

“I think the construction will take some time, so I think it’s better to start earlier, but it’ll be at Craftman-san’s convenience.”

“Understood, I’ll accept it then.

I have work I have ta continue doin’, so～, we’ll start after that”

Un, there’s absolutely no problem with that!

Let’s exchange the details with Sylphy and Aisha at home.

As soon as he’s free, Craftsman will come to my house.

Craftsman, thank you very much even though you’re so busy!

Thanks!

Now then, the talk with Craftsman has finished, what should I do now...

...Ah, that’s right...

About my marriage... I’ll have to tell Otou-san and Okaa-san about it...

I quickly paced towards the public cemetery north of the town.

On the way, I decided to buy some flowers my parents loved.

They’ll definitely be delighted.

The florist-san asked me “Are you going to decorate a grave with this flower?” and made a dubious face, but this flower is my only choice.

This flower’s name is “Sunflower”

Using selective breeding with magic power or something, recently, any kind of flower can be bought all year round.

However, this flower is originally a flower which blooms in the summer.

Otou-san and Okaa-san also love this flower.

...Of course, me too.

[Hey, Myne. Don’t you feel better looking at sunflowers?

A flower which puts a smile on people’s face and makes them feel lively, isn’t it wonderful, Otou-san and Okaa-san both love this flower as well]

Otou-san and Okaa-san were smiling all the time.

They greeted everyone they met with a smile on.

The weapon shop’s Oji-san said.

That Otou-san and Okaa-san’s smiles were like sunflowers.

I also think that too.

That’s why, to me, this is the only flower I can bring to Otou-san and Okaa-san.

Otou-san, Okaa-san... I wonder if they’ll be glad at my wedding.

It’d be good if they would.

I then arrived in front of the grave Otou-san and Okaa-san were lying in.

“...Otou-san, Okaa-san, it’s been a while”

Of course, there was no reply.

“Today, I have something to report to Otou-san and Okaa-san... You’ll surely be surprised.

...I am getting married. Isn’t it amazing? It’s surprising, isn’t it”

There didn't reply, but I know that Otou-san and Okaa-san are surprised.

"Actually, I have two partners, isn't it surprising?

There's something more surprising, you know? Do you want to hear it?... No helping it, I guess"

Before I realised, my eyes were flooded with tears.

"Both of them are beauties that won't lose to Okaa-san, you know!

Eh? What did you say Otou-san, they lose to Okaa-san? No way! Okaa-san is a beauty, but

my wives are also really beautiful!

On top of that, one of them is this country's princess, isn't that amazing? I'm the most surprised, you know!

I never thought that I would marry a royalty and polygamy would be approved! When I realised, I got two wives.

...Okaa-san's definitely saying that I'm getting too carried by the flow again, right..."

My eyes are becoming blurry, and I can't see anything, you know...

I wanted Otou-san and Okaa-san to see my wedding.

I wanted Otou-san and Okaa-san to see it with their sunflower-like smiles on.

"We'll be having a wedding ceremony.

They said it'll be at the temple in the capital, it's far, but... both of you must definitely come and see it!"

Otou-san, Okaa-san... Why did you have to die...

I'm lonely, come back.

As I couldn't contain my wailing, something warm hugged me from my left side and back.

I wiped the overflowing tears with my hand, and when I looked at that 'something'... there were my two fiancées who I was talking to my parents about.

As I was surprised, Aisha and Sylphy put their hands together in front of Otou-san and Okaa-san's grave.

"Father-in-law-sama, Mother-in-law-sama, nice to meet you. My name is Sylphid.

I will be married to Myne-san.

I will certainly make him happy in Father-in-law-sama and Mother-in-law-sama's place. Please rest assured"

"Father-in-law-sama, Mother-in-law-sama, my name is Aisha.

I will also be married to Myne-kun.

I have heard from the townspeople, and will certainly become a couple that is as wonderful as the both of you.

I will make a home brimming with smiles, please watch over us"

I who was taken aback, grasped both of them tightly.

I am alright now, I'm not alone, that is what I want to say.

"...Otou-san, Okaa-san, it's just as I said.

They are beauties that won't lose to Okaa-san...

Please watch over us from now on as well. I will persevere"

[Do your best, Go for it]

...I had certainly heard both of their voices at that time.

CHAPTER 61

WITH SYLPHY

“...Why are you guys here?”

Finishing my greetings to Otou-san and Okaa-san, I asked them after we exited the public cemetery.

After all, isn't that too good a timing?

I'm absolutely not trying to gloss over my crying! I'm really not!

They said that they found me on my way to the cemetery, but I made a face as if thinking of something really hard, so they became worried, and followed me here.

U~n, I don't think that's true, but... it seems that I made an extremely awful face.

Since I didn't give off such a feeling of thinking hard when we left the house, the both of them judged that I might have gotten myself dragged into something, and decided to take a look at the circumstances.

It's so that they can deal with it immediately if anything happens.

And, looking at me suddenly crying at the grave, they rushed out in a panic.

...Seems like I've made them worried.

Both of you, I'm sorry.

Aisha on my right hand, and Sylphy on my left.

Joining hands with each of them, the three of us got on our way home.

When we were going back, Sylphy asked me why I decorated the grave with sunflowers, so I answered, “Tou-san and Kaa-san liked them”.

As I said that,

“Myne-kun, our garden... why don't we plant a lot of sunflowers?

Father-in-law-sama and Mother-in-law-sama will definitely be delighted”

So said Aisha.

That's true, I didn't have much time up until now, but from now on, I'm not alone. I also have enough living expenses.

Something like that would certainly be fine.

"Un! That's good!! Let's plant a lot of sunflowers in the garden!"

Before returning home, we stopped by the florist-san who I dropped by earlier, and purchased a lot of sunflower seeds.

Un, I'm really looking forward to the future!



"Now then, Danna-sama. Let's exchange reports"

When we arrived at home, and as we relaxed while drinking tea, Sylphy announced that.

"Un, okay"

Saying that, I straightened myself and made sure that we can discuss.

"We'll start first"

They obtained permission to build the Clan House without any problems.

Town headman-san seems to also know Otou-san and Okaa-san well, and when they said that they will be marrying me, he quickly gave approval.

Of course, it was a request from the First Princess, so I don't think rejecting was a choice from the beginning.

Town headman-san said that my parents rescued this town from a crisis.

...I wonder... what did Otou-san and Okaa-san do?

They are just normal Otou-san and Okaa-san when at home, so honestly, I don't really have any idea...

Come to think of it, Craftsman was also thankful to Otou-san, wasn't he.

U~n. Why don't I try asking next time?

"Well, that's the gist of it.

The mayor will visit us before long, so we'll draw up the contract for the land then.

Honestly, the price was overwhelmingly cheaper than I originally thought.

The mayor did gave us a discount, but there's also the fact that the land around this house is originally cheap.

It depends on the price of the quality materials, but it seems like the funds Chichiue prepared would be more than enough"

Ooh, that's what I wanted to hear!

However, we can't just push everything onto King-sama.

Exactly because it has become cheaper, I think I have to take the initiative in paying.

"Hey, Sylphy. Let's pay for the building!

We will be the ones using the Clan house, right? If that's the case, it'd be weird if we're not the ones paying!

...Furthermore, I think we'll definitely become more attached to it that way!"

As I said that, both Sylphy and Aisha looked at me blankly, before looking at each others' faces and started giggling.

"That's what I like about Myne-kun"

"That's true, I too think that that's extremely likeable"

I don't quite understand, but I seemed to have gained their approval.

Un, that's good!

"Well then, next is my turn, isn't it!"

Saying that, I talked to them about what has been decided at Craftsman's place.

"I see, after a week, is it? Until then, we'll need to finish up the contract for the land before then, huh...

Seems like it'll be better for us to send out a fast messenger horse to Chichiue.

Let's let them dispatch it to a specialist to handle the design of the building and such, and make advance arrangements with Craftsman-dono"

After that, the three of us contributed various opinions, and after making a rough plan, we finished our discussion.

Now then, I've gotten hungry! Let's make dinner.

That's right! I will make dinner!! This time, they'll have to take a rest.

Such being the case, both of them are relaxing in the living room while having a talk. They didn't really agree, but in the end, I pleaded them and got them to yield.

It'll be good if they could be at ease, no? I'm glad that I have hardworking wives.

...Ah, but it seems like they'll do the same if we change positions.

While thinking that, I made the meal for my family, which was really fun.

Okaa-san... and Sylphy and Aisha definitely felt like this when making the meals.

While working in an enjoyable mood, time passed by in a flash.

"Food's ready—!"

As I said that, both of them said "We were waiting for this" and carried the food out steadily.

And then, the time for a fun dinner has come.

Since Sylphy wanted to hear about the Dungeon of Strength, Aisha and I took turns talking about it.

When she heard from Aisha that I quickly defeated the Troll Gazer, Sylphy sighed and said,

"...Danna-sama, you overdid it"

Hearing that, Aisha and I spontaneously looked at each other.

And then we started giggling.

"W, what is it? Why... are you two laughing?"

Sylphy who was looking at us was baffled.

“The “you overdid it” Hime-sama said is the same thing I said when Myne-kun defeated the Cocka Grice”

Aisha explained while enduring her laughter.

Un, she certainly did say that.

“...Myne-kun, you overdid it...”, she said.

Hearing that explanation, Sylphy also started laughing.

Laughter continuously resounded as we sat together while having our dinner.



“Phew~, baths are the getaway from life, aren’t they♪”

...Yes, right now, I am entering the bath.

After finishing our fun dinner, both of them said that they wanted me to leave the cleaning up to them.

I could possibly say “I’ll do it,” when they rolled up their sleeves and were getting fired up, so I just left them with it.

Well, what should I do?

That’s right, there is something that only I can do!

That being the case, I heated up the bath.

As expected, I’ve gotten used to regulating the water temperature, and it was ready in just two minutes, the fastest so far.

The Skills on this pebbles’ usage are really convenient, aren’t they.

It’d be good if I could think of some other usage for them.

While doing nothing but thinking that, I heard the sound of the door opening, and someone came into the baths.

There’s a lot of steam, so I don’t really know who came in...

Is it Aisha???

Sylphy is here so I thought she certainly won't come in, though...

However, even after I waited, the person who entered did not move from the spot.

Hm??

"...Aisha?"

As I called out, that person's body swung with a start.

Hm—? Weird, it isn't Aisha?

...Wait a minute. It isn't Aisha??

"...Don't tell me... Is that you, Sylphy?"

As I said that, that person's body trembled violently, opened the door in a panic, and exited the bath.

[...What in the world... doing... if you run... you know!!]

I faintly heard some kind voice.

That's Aisha's voice, isn't it.

...Un, I somehow understood what happened.

A while later, the door opened once again, and a person came in.

With the opening and closing of the door, the steam became a lot less compared to before.

The person who opened the door and came in was as I expected, Sylphy.

Her face was dyed a bright red, and she was hiding her body with a towel.

She then turned her face at a completely different way to not look at my face.

Un, she's embarrassed. That's...

Most probably, she was scolded by Aisha.
Her tears welled up slightly and it seems like she's pouting.

It was different from her usual dignified look, how do I put this.
Cute... Yes, she feels really cute.

"...Danna-sama, I came to wash your back"

At last, she said only those words, and approached the bathtub.
Every time she takes a step, the glimpses of the parts hidden behind her towel comes into view, which is very poisonous to the eye. (*TLN: poison to the eye = temptation.*)

Un? Not poison, but a feast... I guess?

It looks somewhat small compared to Aisha's.
Eh? What, you say... that's a secret.

After that, the towel slid down and her birthday suit was exposed, her concealment failed, and on top of that, she saw me nude...
At that time, Sylphy's shriek echoed within the bathroom.

"...Sorry, Danna-sama"

Both of us soaked in the bathtub, and she seemed to have finally calmed down.
Aisha must be fretting outside the bathroom.

"I had roughly learned about this as royalty, but...
Actually showing myself naked, no matter what it's embarrassing..."

"It's alright, even I feel embarrassed.
Thanks to Aisha, I've gotten considerably used to it..."

"I see, Danna-sama's also embarrassed... I see, I see"

Sylphy probably relaxed while soaking in the bathtub, as she gradually returned back to normal.
...It's rare seeing Sylphy with teary eyes, so I had wanted to look at it more, though.

And then, when we exited the bath, she seemed to have prepared herself as she said,
“Danna-sama, I’ve talked to Aisha... Tonight, I want you to make love to me”

Thus, Sylphy and I spent the night in the same futon.

CHAPTER 62

A TROUBLESOME MATTER CAME UP

The breakfast on the morning after first time with Sylphy.
For some reason I felt awkward looking at Aisha.

Of course, Aisha was supporting Sylphy, and last night she didn't come to my room.
...I understand, but... but it's still awkward somehow.

Aisha's looked extremely normal, and nothing has changed.
That's why, I think I am the only one with this feeling of awkwardness.

By the way, speaking of Sylphy... how do I say it, it is extremely easy to understand that she has been embarrassed all this time.

Whenever Aisha asked what happened, she bashfully looked downward.

...Honestly, I never expected such a Sylphy.

Either way, I don't think it'll be good if this continues.
This is the part where I, the man, must get my act together!

I can't just say things like awkward!

We will be living together from now on, so I'll have to act natural about this.

"Seconds!"

Holding out my bowl to Aisha, I had her serve more meat soup.
I then heartily eat up.

As expected of [Cooking Lv6]! No matter how much I eat, I won't get tired of it, and are rapidly entering my stomach.

Looking at me, Sylphy also seem to be gradually recovering her usual look and requested Aisha for seconds.

It might have looked a little forced, but this should be okay, right?

...Well, whatever.

Let's eat one more helping.



A week passed in a blink of an eye.

Mayor-san came to our house, and Craftsman came for a preliminary inspection of the Clan House site.

Furthermore, the construction specialist from the capital also came.

Good gracious, time really flies...

Then, the hecticness was furthered by Alchemist-san's wife.

Despite my request for her to "Please don't tell anyone!", she unintentionally talked about it.

Although it didn't cause any chaos, it had spread quite a lot.

The oji-sans and oba-sans in the shopping district who I am indebted to, congratulated me one by one and brought all kinds of stuff.

It's because I am indebted to them that I know that they are genuine, and I am happy for that, but...

...I was told off a lot by Sylphy.

Then... I also told off the Alchemist-san's wife a lot.

"Although I'm also at fault for not telling you not to speak, but I hoped you could think a little more... Danna-sama"

I thought that I had to tell her because I am indebted to her, but I certainly was not prudent enough.

I must think a lot, lot deeper.

...I have reflected a lot, you know.

By the way, the Alchemist-san's wife also seem to have been strongly chewed out by her husband.

Un, please reflect with all your heart.

As I was making such a face and looking at Madam-san who was getting scolded, Sylphy glared at me.

...Ah, me too, huh. I'm sorry.

Thus, probably because the matter about us getting scolded spread, the uproar has calmed down considerably.

...Just as I thought that.

An outrageous bomb was dropped in my home.

"We have heard that Your Highness Sylphid is here and have arrived. Will Your Highness be willing to meet us?"

Somebody seems to be visiting.

I heard a voice coming from outside.

"Ye—s, coming～!"

I replied, and when I went towards the entrance, what entered my eyes was the figure of a imposing carriage.

The whole carriage was coated in pitch black, and the edges are ornamented with a golden colour, an extremely extravagant-looking carriage.

Aah, this... is no doubt a noble's carriage.

And the one who had been calling in the entranceway is an ojii-san magnificently dressed in a stylish butler uniform with a splendid moustache.

"Are you the owner of this house? We have arrived to visit Her Highness Sylphid..."

It seems that he has business with Sylphy.

Well, that's understandable... There's no way a butler serving such a noble would come to visit me.

“...Yes, she’s in”

As I answered that, a man wearing elegant clothes with excessive extravagant ornaments on it came out from the carriage.

He seems to be older than Sylphy.

He’s probably a noble from this town, but... I don’t know him at all.

I don’t have any interest, but I probably can’t say that anymore from now on, huh...

I wonder if he’s here to greet Sylphy, knowing that she’s here from the talk spread by Alchemist-san’s Wife?

As I was thinking that while looking at that noble, the first thing that came out of his mouth was something unbelievable.

“Aah, what is the meaning of this!

For a noble and lovely person like Her Highness Sylphid to

stay in such a dirty little shack...!!

!!!!

...What did he say... This guy, what the hell did he just say?

Is he looking down on the house Otou-san and Okaa-san left behind!!!?

Just when I was about to object, I remembered that he is a noble.

That’s right, Sylphy told me before.

That I have to think more before I act.

It’s no use, if I were to complain about a noble... I don’t know what will happen.

If it’s after I married Sylphy, it’ll be alright, but since I am still a commoner...

...However, I feel very vexed.

To me, looking down on this house is the same as looking down on Otou-san and Okaa-san.

He naturally did not notice my vexation, no, even if he did realise, he will only consider as inferior.

This noble was determined to continue looking down on me and this house.

As I grasped my fists tightly and gnashed my teeth, Sylphy and Aisha came out wondering what was wrong.

Then, the noble proudly talked about it, and naturally Sylphy and Aisha heard about him insulting me and my house.

“...You’re speaking quite a lot about my partner and that house, aren’t you? Claude Roselia”

While Sylphy was stifling her anger, she called out to the noble... rather, Claude. He probably didn’t sense Sylphy’s anger, and greeted Sylphy in a calm manner.

“Ooh! Your Highness!!! It’s been a while.

Oh dear, you look as lovely as ever!! Even in such a dirty place, Your Highness’s beauty hasn’t been tarnished at all!

Furthermore, isn’t that the guild receptionist Aisha-dono over there!

To be able to see two peerless beauty together with these eyes, I, Claude, am extremely delighted”

...This bastard! He’s fucking looking down on the house again!

Are you stupid? You’re stupid, aren’t you!? Don’t you see that Sylphy’s angry? Aisha also seems to be quite angry, and normally, you’ll notice it!

...It seems that the butler noticed the dangerous atmosphere.

This stupid noble doesn’t care about Sylphy and Aisha’s conditions at all.

[...Young master, young master, you can’t do that]

The butler tried to stop him in a panic, but he’s too late.

“...Did a noble like you come here to pick a fight with me?”

Sylphy finally snapped.

Looking at situation, the noble Claude finally understood the situation.

“N, Not at all!... N, no... Your Highness... living in such a dirty place, pitying, no, um...”

“Oh, is that so, I understand. Why don’t I accept your challenge”

As expected, thinking that it would be bad if this continues, the butler forced his way through.

“Please forgive this rudeness, Claude-sama doesn’t bear any ill will, and was thinking for Your Highness Sylphid.

Please understand and forgive us”

Looking at the butler bowing deeply, Sylphy breathed out a sigh and folded her arms.

“...There’s no next time”

Sylphy squinted and glared at the butler and the noble Claude.

As he seemed to have somehow gotten forgiveness, he was noticeably relieved.

“...Putting aside you coming here to pick a fight with me, what the hell did you come here for?”

He probably recalled his business at last.

The noble Claude took out a letter-like thing from his breast pocket.

“I’ve heard that Your Highness will be marrying.

...I’ve heard that Your Highness’s partner will be a commoner, so the people who proposed to Your Highness up until now including me cannot consent... That’s why we have a proposal.

Before the marriage ceremony, we would like to play a game with Your Highness’s partner.

If he wins, we will be obedient and give our blessings for Your Highness’s marriage.

If he loses, we want this marriage to be called off.

His Majesty said that if Your Highness agrees, His Majesty will approve”

While saying that, he handed over the letter he took out from his bosom.

“Why do I have to get you bastards’ blessings? There’s no way I’ll accept.

That's all, right? Get the hell out of my face immediately, just your face makes me feel unpleasant"

Rejected clearly by Sylphy, he made a vexed expression for a moment, before glaring at me.

"You will regret this, Your Highness!"

Leaving behind an undesirable line, the noble Claude who boarded his carriage returned.

"Sorry, Danna-sama... This is all my fault"

"Uun, that's not true. All of them are the ones at fault..."

I am curious about his final words, but for the time being, the troublesome matter has left.

CHAPTER 63

MORE TROUBLESOME MATTERS

“Sorry, Danna-sama, Aisha... it was my fault”

As we drank the tea, which Aisha roasted, in the living room and calming down, Sylphy apologised to us.

“I’ve said this before, but Sylphy’s not at wrong, you know?”

“That’s right, Hime-sama... Sir Claude was the one at fault”

Aisha and I denied Sylphy’s words at almost the same time.

Of course, there’s no doubt he came for Sylphy.

However, him spitting out abusive language is a problem with his character, and isn’t Sylphy’s responsibility.

“...However, if I wasn’t here, nothing like this would have happened”

It seems to be weighing in her mind.

“In that case, will Sylphy stop our marriage for that idiot (Claude)?”

“There’s no way I’ll do that!”

“...If so, don’t worry about it”

The conversation had been flowing, and my one sentence stopped Sylphy’s words. The situation developed as I thought, I think... she will agree, even if reluctantly.

Even so, she pondered for a while, but she returned to the usual Sylphy little by little.

“...However, I don’t understand”

“Hm? About what?”

“About why did Chichiue listened to such a person.

Our marriage has already been decided, there’s no way Chichiue would overrule it

with a game or something”

Aah, I see.

...That’s true.

I lost my cool with him insulting my house so I didn’t think of that at all.

I am already included as the royal family’s relative, and the influential nobles should have been notified of the marriage.

This time’s case seems like it was based on rumours, but in the first place, they should have known about it beforehand.

...Perhaps, there’s a catch to it?

As we were sorting out the situation from Sylphy’s words, although it was in the evening, somebody came to visit at such an odd time.

Don’t tell me it’s that stupid noble (Claude)?

As I was trying to stand up, Aisha said “Let me,” and headed towards the entranceway.

A while later, Aisha led someone in.

“Hm? Somehow this feels like deja vu...”

Aisha’s expression was stiff, it feels like I’ve seen it somewhere before.

...Don’t tell me, it’s Alto-san?

In the moment I thought that, Sylphy raised her voice.

“...Lewis!? Why are you here!?”

Eh? Who is he??



“Nice to meet you, I am Lewis Augusta, Sylphid-nee-san’s younger brother.
Please take care of me from now on, Brother-in-law-san”

The one who greeted me in a playful way is this kingdom’s Second Prince.

His Highness Lewis Augusta.

Aah, why are royalty coming to my house so thoughtlessly...
Of course, I know that it's because of my marriage with Sylphy.

See, I know, don't I?
Usually, you will never meet royalty even once in your whole life, you know?
No, it's just that the probability of not meeting them is higher.

Even Alto-san from before, I'm getting dizzy from this.

On top of that, he's calling me Brother-in-law-san... No, it's not that he's wrong, but...

"By the way, Nee-san, has Claude Roselia-dono came to visit?"

His Highness greeted me and hurriedly addressed his sister.

"...Aah, he came to pick a fight earlier so I sent him away"

"Uwaa, I was too late, huh... , Did that idiot not say anything?"

"...He said some considerably unpleasant thing, like retracting the marriage if they win in a game.

Furthermore, he said that Chichiue has approved of it, what's the meaning of that?
Lewis"

"Haa... as I expected. Just as that idiot said.

First things first, let me explain the number one misunderstanding, Chichiue did not approve of such a thing.

He only had a little intention and said [Well, let me think about it].

They twisted it and told Nee-san that, huh"

Aah, just as Sylphy said.

It seems that... King-sama has some kind of aim, huh.

After that, His Highness explained to us in detail about the current circumstances.

There seems to be eight people who are opposed to our wedding and planned a game along with the idiot noble (Claude).

They are not only from Lucas, but also sons of nobles from the royal capital and the neighbourhood towns.

These eight sons.

Actually, their reputation is extremely bad.

They are full of pride about being nobles, and force unreasonable demands in the town and fill their own pockets by taking advantage of their status.

However, if that's all there is, it wouldn't be that unusual, but just the other day, a slave dealer complained to Ou-sama.

That Claude's party had "smuggled young dragons".

Originally, slave dealers deal with monsters, and not only humans and demi-humans. It seems that they have those for appreciation, battle and other various uses.

There is a law which have been established that forbids such slave dealers from dealing with some races and monsters.

Included within the prohibition is the dragon race.

Why can't they deal with dragons?

Dragons are an extremely intelligent species.

They are an ancient species, can even understand human language, and it is even possible to communicate with them.

Naturally, with such a large body, humans cannot treat dragons as slaves.

...That is why they deal with dragon who are still young.

Yes, they deal with young dragons...

Young dragons, that is, dragon's children.

Since children naturally have parents, how would their parents react if their children are gone?

Even humans who haven't become adults know the answer to that.

Naturally, the answer is "they will come back to get them".

Nobody knows how the idiot noble (Claude) got their hands on a young dragon. However, there's no way the parent dragon will stay silent forever.

There's no doubt that it's searching for its kid, even as we speak.

...This is very important.

I don't know where they hid the young dragon in, but the adult dragon will attack that town.

If that happens... that town will be destroyed.
The uproar isn't at the level of an Orc King.

"...Is that story true?"

Sylphy frowned and asked His Highness Lewis.
That's understandable, after all, it's not a easily believable story.

"...As of now, I can only say "probably".
It's a secret information from a trustworthy slave dealer, so it is most probably true.
However, it still cannot be proved.
Since nobody knows whether it's true or not, the influential nobles in each town cannot use their power.
If it turns out to be false, it won't end with Chichiue apologising.
That's why we are now desperately collecting proof"

...Isn't this a really bad situation?

Huh? What does this have to do with Ou-sama's remark like approving of the game?

"Umm~, how is this matter connected to the game??"

As if understanding my intention, His Highness Lewis started his explanation.

The suspects of this uproar on the dragon is exactly the same as those who raised an objection against our wedding and proposed the game.
The game's details were checked, a lot of evidence was collected, and they've ascertained that it was full of unfairness.

They appealed to the King, raised an objection to the marriage the King has already

decided, and will commit injustice with the game which will be held.
If this comes to light, there's no doubt they will be restricted.

Whatever the reason is, it will be possible to make them confess about the dragon if they are restricted.

King-sama thought about that, approved without giving his promise.
It seems that they originally wanted to tell us about this before those guys tell us about the game, but for some reason they acted faster, and it was too late.

...The reason they acted faster...

I know what it is.
Isn't it all my fault?

Since the "rumour" spread, Sylphy's whereabouts was exposed.

Aaaaah, in the end, I'm the number one idiot, aren't I —!!
I am reflecting about it a lot, no, I really am...

"...I see, so that means Chichiue wants us to accept this game, huh.
Good grief, what does he take our marriage as"

Sylphy made a huge complaint.

Well, this can't be helped, right?
There might be other ways do this, but it's certainly a chance to advance the talks smoothly.

"However, I have a question.
No matter how stupid they are, there's no way they didn't think of the possibility that an adult dragon will come to get it back, right?"

"...We don't know whether it's true or not, since it's something we heard from a slave dealer"

There's still more to go. Good grief.

...It seems that they have decided to sell it off to a neighbouring country.

There's the rumour about the Country of Demons attacking, and an enslaved dragon would be increase our war potential...

Also, if it is sold, the adult dragon will not come to this country.

Such a cowardly thing they thought of.
I will absolutely not forgive them.

"I see, they're more of a low-life than I imagined... Something like this done by our country's influential nobles... pathetic"

"Well, that's the story, Aneue.
I'm sorry but won't you accept the proposal?
Of course, there's no way your marriage will be cancelled if you were to lose.
...But then, there's no way Brother-in-law-san would lose to them"

"...Danna-sama, sorry, but that's how it is. Will you accept it?"

Sylphy asked me apologetically.
Of course, I've already decided on the answer.

"Un, Of course!"

...I'll get rid of my resentment of him making fun of my house while I'm at it.

Eh? I shouldn't?

CHAPTER 64

THE DARK SIDE OF THE GAME

“And, what should we do for the game those guys mentioned?”

As I said that, Sylphy picked up the letter she received from the idiot noble from the trash can.

“...Fumu, let’s just check the contents for now.
In any case, it’s worthless”

“...No, the contents are unexpectedly decent”

His Highness Lewis, who already heard about the summary in the capital, answered.

Oh, those rude fellows who don’t even have manners, actually thought up a game that even a royalty says it’s decent, huh...
I’m a little excited about it.

Sylphy and Aisha also had expressions of surprise when they heard His Highness Lewis’ words.

While smiling wryly at our looks, His Highness Lewis continued speaking.

“In a separated place about 50km north of the royal capital, is the “Divine Spirit Forest”, where some powered-up monsters are prowling about, right?
The gist of the game is to collect materials from that forest”

What His Highness Lewis then said is:

- Collect the chosen materials within the time limit.

Each of the materials will be assigned points, and the winner will be decided by the total points collected.

- The points of the target materials will be discussed by the chivalric order.

- Points may be added or subtracted depending on the state after dismantling.
- The game will be held for two days.
- To prevent unfairness, a few knights will be deployed in the forest as surveillance.
- The participants can have substitutes.

That's roughly the details.

Basically, the eight nobles who are opposed to our wedding will each choose their own adventurer substitutes, making a total of eight adventurers.

Nine people, including me (Along with the knights tasked with surveillance) will enter the forest, and each of the participants will hunt and compete for points within the time limit.

When we enter the forest, dedicated storage bags will be handed over to us by the knights. The materials will be put away in it, and will be retrieved after the end of the game.

By the way, that storage bag.

It seems to be the work of a famous transmutator, a precious item where the items put inside will “not experience the passage of time”.

...It's the same as the one I made with [Unique Magic • Space-time].

I'm curious, how did that transmutator make it?

He can't make it in the same way I did...

...Well, let's leave the storage bag aside.

The venue will be the “Divine Spirit Forest”.

I've heard that there has been a legend since ancient times, that a Divine Beast sleeps within the deepest parts of the forest, and it's a place famous for the few powered-up monsters prowling about.

For example, goblins.

The individuals living in this forest are stronger than the normal high goblins from other places.

Rare monsters which are rarely seen appears here, and valuable materials can be gathered here, which makes it famous.

By the way, His Highness Lewis' Clan, "The Library of Alchemists" want and gather a lot of the materials obtainable from this forest.

Once our Clan officially starts its activities, since our cooperation has been decided, we will frequent this forest from then on.

"...I see, the contents are certainly decent"

"But how do the stupid nobles plan on playing dirty?"

"...They've bribed the knights.

It came to light when the knights who have contacted them pretended that they have been bought out and reported to us"

It seems that this is their plan.

They will borrow the time-stop storage bag in advance from the bribed knights, infiltrate, and collect the materials in large quantity before the game.

And on the date of the game, they will fill the newly handed storage bags and hand them in as the results. A truly plain and simple plan.

If they were normal people, you wouldn't think that they could bribe the knights. However, the amount they presented for the bribe this time is unparalleled.

For argument's sake, even if they are bribed, it wouldn't be that difficult for the knights to do it, and there isn't that much labour.

If we compare the benefits of the reward and the labour they requested, it certainly is an unprecedented condition.

There's no way the stupid nobles would have thought that the knights they bribed might deceive them.

They seem to have planned to have their own way using their position as the successor of an influential noble and the power of money.

However, the one who coaches the imperial knights is that Brother-in-law-san (Alto). There's no way the knights who received Brother-in-law-san (Alto) teachings would partake in such a bribery scheme. The plan was quickly exposed, and this is the result.

...How do I say this, they... are really idiots.

In the first place, if Sylphy did not accept the game like what had happened, the plan would have fallen apart just like that...

He's definitely raging in his house right about now, isn't he?

"There isn't a problem to arrest Claude-dono at this point in time, but...

Chichiue said to round up their accomplices who are not directly participating in this. There's also the possibility that each of their own house will be involved, so all eight members will be arrested"

In the case where not only the sons, the idiot nobles, but even their parents are involved in this matter, it would become something outrageous.

If they are unlucky, the family would probably disappear, huh...

"I see, and will Danna-sama be the only one hunting in the forest?"

"That's right, Nee-san-tachi will be preparing for the wedding ceremony in the royal capital.

It'd be bad if this matter isn't settled quickly, since there's also the matter with the dragon.

That's why the wedding ceremony's schedule will be considerably accelerated.

After this, I will send out a knight I brought along to Claude-dono and tell him that the game will be carried out.

The game's schedule and marriage ceremony's schedule will then be officially decided, I guess?"

"However, even though Lewis will handle the game, you don't have much persuasion power, do you?

If I were the one to say it, it might be different"

"If Nee-san-tachi wins, it might be good to get them to consent to disinherit.

Since they've paid quite the price, I think they'll gladly accept such a condition.

There's also the fact that they are probably confident that they'll definitely win through backhanded means, after all"

However, if they save up and store the ones they hunted beforehand, I'll lose even if I do my best on the day, won't I?

When I enquired about that, it seems that they will pass them a storage bag where time still works and pretend that it's one that doesn't.

If they put it in a storage bag with time flow, then naturally, the materials will deteriorate, so it would be easy to verify.

After that, the details were knocked together, and His Highness Lewis returned to the royal capital.

...He seems to be really busy.

We'll also have a lot to do from now on, don't we?



"Dammit, dammit, dammit—!—!—!—!"

Where do I vent this boiling anger of mine!!

How much do they think I've spent on making the arrangements!

The effort I put in preparing surfaced in my mind.

The First Princess, Sylphid Augusta.

If I can get her to be my wife, our Roselia family will be secure.

On top of that, she possess such beauty.

You could say that she is suited to be my wife.

It'll be relatively easier to set up a marriage proposal with the royal family as long as one has good Skills.

Not to brag, but I think my [Two-handed spear • Extreme] is pretty strong.

Despite that, the royal family refused my proposal.

...Everyone else also had their proposals turned down.

However, there's no way she'll never marry.

In that case, I'll give in a little.

Just as I thought that, the royal family dropped a bombshell: Sylphid's wedding has been decided.

On top of that, it seems that her partner is a commoner.

It'll be bad at this rate.

I'll have to somehow prepare a plan, and get the wedding cancelled.

Thinking that, I worked out a plan.

I kept in touch with my noble comrades who also were turned down by Sylphid, and got the preliminary arrangements ready.

I thought up a game with "Falconry", an interest of nobles, as a base, and applied for it in a meeting with the King, and explained the outline of the game.

"Fumu, overturning a wedding the royal family has approved... Claude Roselia-dono, is that what you're saying?"

"That is not my intention, it's just that I am apprehensive about commoner blood entering the royal family's"

"Oh? I was originally a commoner, though?"

"Isn't Faren-sama the King now?"

No matter the origins, right now, the royal family's blood is Faren-sama's.

In the first place, the act of comparing Faren-sama to a no-name commoner is a mistake in itself"

"Fumu, well, alright. I understand your point.

If Sylphy accepts your suggestion... I'll think about it.

I don't think that'll happen though, so you better give up"

Tch, I didn't get his promise, huh. Whatever.

Since he said he'll consider it, it won't be an exaggeration even if I say that he gave his approval.

I'll have to do something to ensure my win in this game.

I called out to an acquaintance from the first knight unit, and requested for cooperation.

What? Although he's a knight, he's on a tight budget? There's no problem if I just dangle some money in front of him.

He also took care of me quite well until now, after all.

Now then, let's make the necessary arrangements and get Sylphid as my wife by hook or by crook.

...Arrangements complete!!

However, there's no meaning to it if Sylphid doesn't participate in the crucial game!!!!

What should I do?

What in the world should I do to get them into the game?

While I was holding in my rage, I desperately spun my thoughts round and round.

"Young master, His Highness Lewis' messenger came to visit, how should I handle this?"

What? Did he say His Highness Lewis? What does he want.

"Understood, let him in"

As I made my way to the visitor room, a knight, probably His Highness Lewis' imperial guard, was waiting.

"I heard that you are here with a message from His Highness Lewis?"

"Yes, I was tasked with handing this directly to Claude-dono"

As he said that, he took out a letter from his bust and handed it over to me.

He then left at a quick pace after saying "I have handed it over".

...He's restless.

I opened the wax seal on the letter I was handed, and read the contents as I drank the tea the old servant brought over.

“What!!!!”

Written on the letter is that Sylphid has accepted to participate in the game.
...However, there’s a condition that we’ll be disinherited if we lose, huh...

Well, my preparations are flawless, there’s absolutely no way I will lose.
With this, the wedding will start afresh.

It seems that Lady Luck is finally smiling on me.

CHAPTER 65

ARRIVED AT THE ROYAL CAPITAL

After it was decided that we would accept the request by the royal family to participate in the game prepared by the stupid nobles, the day for the wedding ceremony was immediately decided.

Taking the travel time into account, the game is scheduled to be on the day after tomorrow and will be held on the two days after that.

“Honestly speaking, going along with this farce where the results have already been decided is really absurd”

Sylphy griped about it to Aisha and I.

Right now, we are inside a carriage the royal family prepared.
The wedding ceremony will be held two days after the game ends.

I think it's quite the tight schedule.

Once Sylphy and Aisha arrives at the royal capital, they would be able to take it relatively slowly, but as soon as I arrive, I will travel to the “Divine Spirit Forest” along with the knights.

I actually wanted to prepare my heart for the large-scale wedding ceremony though...

However, once the marriage ceremony finishes, troubles with the nobles might increase.

“But as expected of the royal family's carriage... there's almost no shaking.
The carriage we boarded when we previously went to Adol was shaking quite a lot though...”

Aisha started a conversation with Sylphy as if admiring from the bottom of her heart.
I certainly thought about the carriage's comfort as well.

It really isn't shaking at all.

And since the carriage isn't for public riding, the interior is built to resemble a compact living room, which made it really comfortable.

Even drinks and simple meals are prepared, it really is perfect.

Well, it's a carriage for royalty, so it is completely natural, but it feels like a completely different world...

According to Sylphy, there is a magic tool which absorbs shock.

To be able to make such a magic tool, that person must be an amazing alchemist, huh.

As I told Sylphy that, she said that the person who made isn't an alchemist but a transmutator.

He seems to be the same person as the one who made the time-stopping storage bag.

This person has extremely extensive knowledge, and has created various other convenient magic tools.

Once I've gathered the materials, it might be a good idea to try requesting him to transmute the Dagger, Bow, and One-handed Sword of Origin.

...I don't know whether he would accept or not, though.

Well, either way, I can't do anything without the materials, so let's start from there.

A public carriage would take about half a day to the royal capital, but thanks to this carriage, we arrived in about five hours.

I thought about this when we went to the Town of Adol, but even a long period of time like five hours doesn't feel as bad if there were conversations.

We who had just arrived at the royal capital, did not enter from the main gate but a side gate exclusive to the royal family, and entered the town.

I heard that our wedding has already been announced to the whole town, and if the citizens noticed our existence, the whole town may be in an uproar.

Measures seem to have been taken to avoid that.

I once again felt Sylphy's popularity in the royal capital.

"Her Highness Sylphid, Myne-dono, Aisha-dono, have arrived"

The attending knight notified our arrival at the royal castle.

A person called out “Good work,” and we alighted from the carriage one by one after Sylphy.

No matter how comfortable a carriage is, the effect of not moving our bodies for long hours continued.

As I stretched my body and relaxed, a voice called out from behind.

“Thanks for coming, you guys”

As he said that, the person I am familiar with who came to pick us up came into view.

“Brother-in-law-san!”

Brother-in-law-san (Alto) who was broadly grinning with his arms folded stood there. And beside Brother-in-law-san was a woman.

“Ari, you came!”

Sylphy who looked at the woman called out to her and walked up to her.

Ari? Who’s that?

Seeing me worrying about it, Aisha softly whispered into my ear.

“Myne-kun, she’s the Second Princess Ariel, you know”

!!!

I see, so she’s Sylphy’s little sister.

That means to me, she’s my sister-in-law, huh.

I heard that her body isn’t too well, and usually she secludes herself in her room. Come to think of it, there are three princes and two princesses within the royal family, right?

The oldest son is Brother-in-law-san, and the second son is His Highness Lewis. I’ve never seen the third son yet.

The eldest daughter is Sylphy, my wife.

The second daughter is the one in front of me, Her Highness Ariel.

“Nee-sama, congratulations on your marriage.

It’s your big moment after all, there’s no way I can shut myself in my room”

Now that you mention it, she looks a lot like Sylphy.

As I was watching them talk, Her Highness Ariel glanced at me and smiled sweetly.

“Nee-sama, please introduce me to your husband”

“Aah, that’s right... Danna-sama, this is my little sister, Ariel.

Her body’s a little weak. She usually doesn’t appear much in public, but please get along with her”

Prompted by Her Highness Ariel, Sylphy introduced me to her little sister.

“Nice to meet you! My name is Myne!

I may cause you trouble since I am a commoner, but please treat me well!”

“I’m Ariel, please call me Ari if you like, Brother-in-law-sama”

As she said that, she held out her hand.

As I grasped back the hand she held out and answered softly “... Y, yes, Ari”, Sylphy and Alto-brother-in-law-san who saw that burst into laughter.

“What are you embarrassed for, Myne?

Ari is certainly cute, but there’s no need to be that embarrassed, is there?

As a brother-in-law, it’ll be troubling if you don’t shape up.

Protecting cute little sisters is an elder brother’s important job, understand?”

No, telling me to not get embarrassed when meeting a beauty for a first time is impossible...

“Kukuku, Danna-sama, you were also like that around me at first.

There’s nothing better than being the same as usual, I want Danna-sama to be like that forever, right, Aisha?”

“Yes, indeed! That’s how I feel as well, Hime-sama”

“The three of you, that’s mean!”

I think, I was probably embarrassed with my face flushed as I laughed.
The casual exchange, though it was only teasing me, was inevitably really fun.

Her Highness Ariel,... no, Ari also felt something at the scene, and looked at us while grinning.

“That’s unfair, please let me join too!”

As we enjoyed such a harmonious conversation, Brother-in-law-san’s expression turned stern, and started talking to me.

“Sorry our country’s troubles got entangled with your wedding”

Aah, Brother-in-law-san is also worrying about it...

“No, it’s not a problem! Sylphy, Aisha and I also agreed to it, after all!!”

As I said that, Brother-in-law-san smiled wryly and clapped my back as he said “I thought you’d say that”

...Un, it’s Brother-in-law-san’s habit, isn’t it? This back-clapping.

It’s quite painful though...

Aah, nobody’s stopping it either this time.

“Now then, we’ve talked about this. We will meet Chichiue after this.

I feel sorry for Myne, but as soon as that ends, you will go towards the “Divine Spirit Forest”“

Thus, we will have an audience with His Majesty the King.

CHAPTER 66

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF AUGUSTA

This person is the one referred to as a hero... King-sama, huh.

In front of me right now is His Majesty the hero Faren Augusta, who I have only heard in rumours.

Speaking of the King, you would have the image of the country's most distinguished existence and the richest person.

However, the image of the King in front of me.

That is, I felt that "King = Luxurious and gorgeous clothes" but in actuality, King-sama is different.

He is wearing an attire which could be said to be ordinary clothes with relatively few ornaments.

...Well, even so, it's a high-class item which I have never worn in my whole life...

Rather, the stupid noble, Claude, his clothes suit my image of a King's clothes more.

...This is probably because of King-sama's character.

He can live in luxury, but he chose not to.

My impression of King-sama considerably improved.

Also, the room I was led into isn't the audience room, but the King's family's private room.

Since I am his daughter's groom, I was led to this family room.

Right now, inside this room are King-sama's family members.

Faren Augusta

Race: Hume

LV: 51

Gender: Male

Age: 52 years

Occupation: King of the Augusta Kingdom

[Skill]

One-handed Sword • Saint Lv9

Physical Strength Enhancement • Large

Needless to point out, King-sama has the Skills like the rumours say.

Even Brother-in-law-san cannot win against him, as expected, he's extremely strong.

Garnet Augusta

Race: Hume

LV: 37

Gender: Female

Age: 41 years

Occupation: First Queen

[Skill]

Transmutation

High-grade Arithmetic

Unique Magic • Ice

[▼#◇&]

→☆▼◇#全

@全#→全

...Eh? What does this mean?

W, w, w, what??? There are letters I can't read?

Is it possibly because my Appraisal's level is too low!?

No, if the level's too low, I would understand if it shows "Cannot be seen", but it's "unreadable".

Seeing me taken aback, Garnet-sama laughed, "Fufu", and pinched my cheeks.

She then whispered in my ear, "You shouldn't just casually appraise a girl, you know".

!!!

...I see, the royal family knows that I have [Appraisal • Complete].

As I looked at Ou-sama, he probably knew the reason I was perplexed, and grinned.

“I know you are curious, but please forget it for now.
...Sooner or later, you’ll understand”

Garnet-sama gently said that to the confused me.

“...I understand, I am sorry for appraising on my own convenience...”

As I apologised, she hugged me tightly and patted my head.

“Un, good boy. I love kids who properly apologise”

As Garnet-sama did that for a while, Sylphy came into view after clearing her throat,
“Mhm, Ahem!!”

“Ara, what’s the matter? Did you catch a cold?
Sylphy, your wedding ceremony is coming up, you know. That’d be bad”

“I am extremely healthy!... Rather, Hahaue! Please get away from Danna-sama!!”

“Ara~, are you jealous?... That’s a foolish thing to say.
...But, I’ve taken a liking to this kid! His so cute, after all”

“Hahaue!!!!”

Hearing the heartwarming (?) conversation between the mother and daughter, I calmed down little by little.

Not caring whether the conversation stopped or not, before I knew it, Aisha and Ari were dragged into it, and it became quite chaotic.

...I wonder if this is the rumoured girls talk?
It has quite the terrifying power.

While wryly smiling at me who was liberated from Garnet-sama, King-sama and Brother-in-law, His highness Lewis, and another person who seems to be around the same age as me, came along.

“You know Lewis, right?”

Brother-in-law-san treated the girls talk as if nothing, and asked me that.
As I answered yes, he brought the boy who I am not acquainted with yet and about the same age as me to in front of me.

“This is the Third Prince Lecter.
Though we have different mothers, he’s my precious little brother, so you get along with him as well”

“Yes! My name is Myne! Please treat me well, Your Highness Lecter!”

As I greeted with my usual cheerfulness, His Highness Lecter poutily replied.

“I’m Lecter, Myne-Brother-in-law-san’s unfair!
You called Alto-nii-sama Brother-in-law-san, but why do you called me Your Highness!!
You also called Ari-nee-sama with her pet name, didn’t you?
Call me by my name, like you would a younger-brother-in-law!”

As His Highness Lecter said that with a rough “Hmph!”, His Highness Lewis also voiced out his dissatisfaction.

...I’m a little worried about his grin though.

“That’s right, I’m also your younger-brother-in-law, so call me by my name!”

No wait, Your Highness? If you say that while smiling, you don’t have much persuasion power so...

Looking at the scene, King-sama also jumped on the bandwagon.

“...Fumu, in that case, won’t you call me Father-in-law-san as well?”

After enjoying such lighthearted talk for a while, King-sama began to talk to me.

“Myne, I’m really sorry for this time’s matter.
There were misunderstandings, and it brought you unnecessary disorder.
With my position, I cannot easily apologise, but it’ll be okay if it’s only within our family.
I originally didn’t want to drag your wedding into such a boorish matter, but...”

Just like Brother-in-law-san, King-sama also apologised to us.
No, please stop it... , I'll be troubled, you know.

Looking at me, King-sama smiled wryly and added.

"Well, even if I apologised like this, it would be troubling instead, huh. Well, that's understandable.

...Yosh, the apology ends here, but I want you to remember this.
We feel sorry for this matter from the bottom of our hearts"

Then, as King-sama announced, the apology time ended, and we moved on to the topic about the game.

"From our spy's report on Claude, he has already entered the site and the adventurers he hired has started hunting.

His actions went according to expectations too much, so instead we were thinking if he was scheming something else.

...Well, he's not the type of guy to think that much"

"Victory or defeat has already been decided.

You should hunt without forcing yourself, okay?

Fairly strong monsters appear in that forest. There is no point in forcing yourself to get hurt and die"

After that, I received a few warnings from Brother-in-law-san, and will start moving there.

"Danna-sama, Aniue said it as well, but there's no need for you to force yourself, okay? I don't think Danna-sama will fall behind due to the likes of monsters, but nothing is certain.

Please don't ever do anything unreasonable"

"...Myne-kun, take care..."

Talking a little with Sylphy and Aisha, I once again got on the royal family's carriage.



“...He seemed to be quite shocked”

“Yeah, he probably never failed in appraising anything up until now”

My wife, Garnet, has a secret.
A tremendously great secret.

The only one who know about it is me and the transmutator Maya.

Perhaps, this secret will never be told to anyone else for all eternity.
No, there might not be a need to speak about it.

Since we're happy right now.

“I wonder if he'll be on guard against us because of this?
He'll become my cute son-in-law, so I want him to contact us without misunderstandings, but...”

“I think it'll be alright, that kid is quite intelligent.
The strong wariness is a slight fault, but it'll surely be alright.
Time will heal him”

It's certainly strange that he obstinately doesn't want to talk about his Skills.
However, he was an orphan until just a while ago.

He probably wouldn't be able to live without any wariness.

...However, he was raised without getting his personality warped.
He was probably protected by the surrounding adults from the shadows.

...He is probably thirsting for a “family”.
It'll be good if his marriage with my daughter goes in the right direction.

As I pondered about that, I heard my wife muttering some words.

“...Moreover, if he could later appraise me...
He will probably tread on a path of hardships.

Like Maya and I... It'll be enough with just the two of us"

I thought about it too while pretending to not notice my wife's mutterings.
If he doesn't know anything like he is now, he'll certainly live a blissful life.



"We have less time than I thought, you bastards! Get hunting before it's too late!!"

Tch, that brat, Myne or something, will be earlier than expected.
He's early, but to even use the royal family's carriage... It's natural since Sylphid's there, but...

He'll probably arrive in a few hours.
It'd be impossible to continue hunting in front of him.

In that case, now's the only chance.

...Well, the Roselia family itself hired five B-rank adventurers.
There are above thirty adventurers including the adventurers the other families hired, and they are entering the forest now.

A commoner hunter wouldn't be able to surpass the materials obtain by this many people.

Our victory has already been determined.

Wait for me, Sylphid.

You'll soon become mine!!

CHAPTER 67

THE EVE OF THE DECIDING MATCH

It was already getting dark when I arrived at the forest.

A few tents have been prepared at the base camp, located some distance away from the entrance to the forest.

The stupid noble was nowhere to be found.

I was first led by a knight in charge of guiding, and we made our way to a tent allocated to me.

“Myne-dono, this is your tent”

After the knight said that to me, he looked around our surroundings restlessly before telling me in a low voice.

“...I don’t think it will happen, but there’s a possibility Claude-dono and his group may do something to Myne-dono.

This tent is adjacent to our knights’ tents so please call out to us immediately if anything happens”

Un, there’s certainly such a possibility.

He’s a man who looks like he’ll act cowardly without hesitation, so he’ll probably pull something like sabotage off without hesitation.

“Yes! Thank you very much! Please take care of me when that happens!!”

Hearing my reply, the knight-san grinned and returned to his post.

...Now then.

I activated [Presence Detection • LV3] and searched my surroundings.

Hm~, this presence is the knight-san from before.

That means the presences around here are the ones who know about this matter... I

guess?

Well, that's not necessarily true, huh.

Perhaps they might be the adventurers the stupid noble hired.

...There's quite a lot of people gathered in the direction of the forest, huh.

Maybe they've just exited the forest and are returning to the base camp?

Thinking about the fact that they weren't here when I looked around, this group's probably those guys, I guess?

1,2,3... There's quite a lot of them, huh.

Around 40 people, I guess?

It's obviously one too many people if you think about the 9 people including me who will be participating in the game.

...They're firing themselves up quite a lot to cheat, huh.

It'd be good if they diverted that enthusiasm onto something else though...

As I dumbfoundedly investigated the situation, I could feel the presence of a person coming towards me.

...Hm? I wonder if it's the stupid noble?

Knight-san's worries might be spot on.

"Good work commoner, for going out of your way to lose to me"

As I expected! It's the stupid noble.

Suddenly entering someone else's tent rudely and throwing such words around...

"By the way, commoner, your loss has already been decided. Go propose breaking off the engagement to the King.

If you do that, let me see... I'll give you a platinum coin.

What do you think? A commoner like you probably never seen one before, have you?"

...

This guy's rude to the core.

“I’m fine, I have more than a hundred platinum coins, and I’ll win this game”

As I said that, he was wide-eyed in shock, before he flew into a rage with his face completely red.

“You bastard!! A commoner like you going against a noble, what’s with that tone!! You should just obediently obey my words!!!”

He probably never had a commoner say such things to him before this.
He suddenly swung his fist, aiming at my face.

...Such a slow attack, there’s no way it’ll hit.
After seeing the Orc King and Brother-in-law-san’s movements, this looks like slow-motion.

I quickly caught his fist with my palm.

“In the first place, the one who proposed this game is Claude-sama, wasn’t it?”

“Y, y, you bastard!!!!”

He has been shouting loudly since just now.
There’s no way the knight-san who had been waiting in the tents right beside ours haven’t noticed it.

See? The knight-san who guided me earlier’s rushing over here!

“Claude-dono, what are you doing!?
Myne-dono is your opponent for tomorrow. If you try to harm him before the match, the game will be called off right here and now, and it will be your loss!”

“...This guy, a commoner, won’t do as he is told by me, the next head of the Roselia family!!!
Eei, you insolent fellow!! Let go of me, let go!! I’ll kill you for disrespecting me, eei!! Let go!”

He was then pinned down by knights who came after that, and forcefully taken out from the tent.

Come to think of it, I haven't appraised him, have I?
He's that self-important, so he may have quite the good Skills, I guess?

Name: Claude Roselia
Race: Hume
LV: 16
Gender: Male
Age: 21 years
Occupation: Heir of the Roselia family

[Skills]
Two-handed Spear • Extreme
Fine Art • Singing

...Honestly speaking, I think it's questionable.

I do think that [Two-handed Spear • Extreme] is a good Skill.
As for [Fine Art • Singing], it's... not really geared towards battle.

[Fine Art • Singing]: Can sing skillfully.

Looking at it from a noble's perspective, having an interest in fine art is probably a good thing, but...

Thinking about how he proposed a battle, this Skill feels a little out of place.

Well, the ones appearing in the game tomorrow will definitely be the adventurers he hired with money, so there's no problem, I guess?

...If he will be coming out, I'll pay him back for badmouthing my house, but too bad!

As I thought that while looking at the mouth of the tent where that guy had been dragged out, the knight-san from before once again entered.

"Myne-dono, we are sorry.

It was a negligence in our management, we will restrain him from moving about tonight.

Also, since we cannot let even a one in a 10000 chance of anything happening, we will perform night watch around this tent.

Please have a rest without any worries"

Aah, I feel a little guilty towards the knights but I feel a little relieved.
I was thinking what I should do if the adventurers he hired attack when I am asleep...

I'm really grateful to the knights, thank you! I'll have to properly express my gratitude.

"...Thank you very much!! I appreciate it.
However, the knights won't be able to sleep, will they... , I am sorry"

As I apologised, knight-san laughed as he answered.

"Hahaha, it's alright. We'll take turns standing guard so we'll be able to get some sleep.
Besides, taking care of Myne-dono like this is our important duty.
Please don't worry and have some rest, and prepare for tomorrow.
All of us knights will be rooting for you"

Thus, thanks to all of the kind knights, I was able to rest.

Yosh, although the result has already been decided, let's do our best tomorrow!
That's all I can do for now, after all!

...Good night!

CHAPTER 68

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST (1)

Thanks to the knights, I was able to sleep well yesterday night!
Having gotten plenty of sleep, I stretched my body and came out of the tent.

“Un, today’s weather seems nice!”

As I looked up, I could see an bright blue sky spreading out boundlessly.
It’s the best weather (?) for hunting.

As I looked up and the sky and took a deep breath, the knights who restrained and dragged out the stupid noble yesterday found me and came near me.

“Good morning!!!”

I cheerfully greeted them as I always do, and as I thanked them again, all of them smiled and

“Myne-dono, although the game’s outcome has already been decided, please do your best.

All of us from the first unit will root for you”

After I received such pleasant words, I asked them about yesterday’s circumstances.

After he was dragged out from my tent, Claude who had been causing an uproar was dragged to the knight’s leader, who has been designated as His Majesty’s representative, and on top of receiving a stern warning, he will be restricted until the game commences.

As expected, that guy violently resisted, but after he was asked, “Are you okay with being charged for treason against the nation?” he reluctantly withdrew.

Since such an exchange happened, it is very probable that he bears a deep resentment against me, and I was warned to be very careful even during the game.

Finally, it was now time for the game to start.

In the two days from now, all the participants would most probably spend time in the forest.

Of course, there's no problem in returning to the base camp to rest, but the gap in points would open up.

Since it will greatly affect the outcome, I, of course, do not plan to return.

Naturally, my opponents, the adventurers, are probably thinking the same thing as well.

The group of nobles, including the stupid noble Claude, gather one after another at the designated place.

Behind them are adventurers with very good physique, each of them firmly holding a weapon while following the nobles.

...So they're my opponents, huh.

I also equipped my steel dagger and Lightning Edge, and wait for the command to start.

...I purposely ignored Claude who has been glaring daggers at me since just now.

After the knight leader explained the precautions related to the game again, the participants were handed the storage bags one by one.

...Those guys will definitely transfer the materials within their own storage bags into this one after this, huh.

If all goes according to their plan, they will cheat, and put the monster materials they hunted yesterday into the "time-stopped storage bag".

Though in actuality, the storage bag they have is the "storage bag with time", so naturally, their materials have spoilt by now.

While I thought that, I suspended the storage bag I received on my waist.

“I hope that each of you will participate in this two-days match fair and square without cheating!

...Well then, let's start the game. Start!!!”

After the command from the knight leader, the participants hired by the nobles ran towards the forest simultaneously.

...Without cheating, he said. “They’ve already cheated though...” I thought while laughing wryly as I turned my feet towards the forest.

It's really impressive that the knights and even the knight leader were smiling bitterly.



Now then, I didn't ask which monster gives the highest points.

I wonder if it's safe to hunt strong-looking prey for now?

If that's the case, it'll be better advance deep into the forest if we go by the book.

For the time being, I'll continuously watch my surroundings with [Presence Detection

• Moderate LV3]since I don't want anyone to see me using Skills as I advance.

...Hm? As I was thinking that, I discovered a monster.

Name: Forest Ape

LV: 18

Race: Ape Family

Gender:

[Skills]

Sprint

Direct Hit

[Ability]

None

Ape family, an ape type monster, huh.

It's my first time seeing one in real life...

It's certainly higher levelled compared to my opponents in the forest I always hunt at.

For now, let's steal its Skills as usual and weaken it.

So that it doesn't discover me, I used [Presence Erasure • LV3], went around to its back and rushed on it in one go.

The ape panicked at the existence of an enemy who suddenly appeared, but it already lost its Skills when I entered its range.

It showed an attitude of resistance, but its heart was quickly pierced by my steel dagger, and died.

"The points in this game are given depending on the quality of the dismantling of the materials, huh.

When I [Appraised] my opponents, the adventurers, none of them had [Cut]...
I have a great advantage then!"

Immediately, I dismantled it with Cut, and tossed it into the storage bag I was handed.

Un, this is going well.

Let's proceed deeper.

The monster I met next was a different type than the ones I've met until now.

Name: Sidewinder • Evil

LV: 29

Race: Snake Family

[Skills]

Pursuit Attack

[Ability]

Venom Spray

Constrict

A snake type monster! And a super big one at that! It seems to be at least three metres.
If I were to get coiled around by that, I might quickly be crushed to death...

On top of that, I feel like it's level is somehow unusually high...

Perhaps, it's the master of this area?

For now, I pick up a stone around the area, and pasted its abilities onto it.

...Next is its Skills.

Somehow, I can expect its effects even without seeing it, but isn't this Skill easy to use?

Yosh, weakening complete!

Now then, I feel like I want to avoid close combat.

I don't know if anyone is watching from somewhere, so I want to avoid using magic too...

Ah, wait a minute! I can probably have some room with close combat with this method.

First, stop its movements with [King's Intimidation]!

Then, strengthen myself with [Strong Arm LV 3], get close to it in one go, and cut off its head.

As expected, the Orc King's Skills sure are exceptional.

With this, I'll win against most monsters, won't I?

I nimbly dismantled the snake, tossed it into the storage bag, and went deeper and deeper into the forest.

I defeated every single one of the monsters I met on the way in a similar fashion.

...U—n, somehow, I've entered really deep.

Human presences disappeared from my surroundings quite a while ago, so I might have come into a place which isn't assumed to be hunting grounds.

Which reminds me, His Highness Lewis said this.

"There has been a legend since ancient times, that a Divine Beast sleeps within the deepest parts of the forest..." he said.

Well, it's a legend, so there's no way it's true, but there's no smoke without fire. Not to say that there's a Divine Beast, but probably a strong monster,.

Well, I don't think this area is the deepest part, so something like a Divine beast won't appear here.

...At the moment I thought that.

I heard the cry of a monster and sounds of battling from a place a little further away.

Hm? I wonder if it's another participant?

...Let's take a look.

It's not to observe an enemy's movements, but I don't think it's a bad idea to grasp an opponent's battle power.

I used [Presence Erasure • Moderate], and started moving quietly towards the source of the sound.

The scene that leapt into my eyes at my destination is... something I never even expected.

The first thing that caught my eye is a giant wolf with beautiful violet fur.

I realised that some parts on the beautiful fur was stained with blood.

It doesn't seem to have received damage so it's probably the other party's blood?

What I saw after that were several adventurers.

Since they aren't included in the participants, they're probably the other adventurers hired by the stupid noble.

What are these guys doing, coming deep into the forest where no one is monitoring?

...tte, what's that? there are several little wolves caught by those adventurers...

Ah!? Don't tell me...!?

What's the even that started this game in the first place?

That's right, wasn't it due to a dragon's child getting caught, made into a slave, and sold?

In other words, this battle occurring right in front of me is...

"You bastards! Return to me my children!!!!!"

Oh, the wolf spoke!!!

Name: Fenrir
LV: 160
Race: Divine Beast
Gender: Female

[Skill]

Mystic • Rain
Lunatic • Wave
Divine Beast Twinstrike
Magic Eye of Gravity

[Ability]

Great Howl <<Wose-Kamui>>
Strong Legs

Gya!? It's a Divine Beast!!!
I, i, it's really exists!!!?

Huh? Wait...

If I remember correctly, long ago, when the human race was almost destroyed by the demon race, didn't Divine Beasts-sama allied with the Hume race and protected them?

Those adventurers!!? Of all the people, people of the Hume race is trying to catch the children of a Divine Beast-sama who we are indebted greatly to!?

D, don't joke around, this is bad!!!
This is really truly bad!!!

Even though the dragon situation was outrageous enough...
If even Divine Beast-sama invades the towns, if we're unlucky, mankind may perish.

While I was panicking, the situation turned for the worse.

"D, don't you dare move, you beast, d, don't you dare go against us.
Try moving even a little, and y, your kids will lose their lives!!!"

I see, they're trying to escape, taking the children as hostage.
Because of that, Divine Beast-sama cannot move about.

...Those guys, don't they know it's a Divine Beast-sama!?

Since that's the case, there's only one thing I must do.
Save those kids, and return them to Divine Beast-sama.

When I made my resolution... I was already too late.

“Don't screw around!!!”

Divine Beast-sama was enraged at the adventurers' excessively selfish words, and howled.

The whole forest rustled at the shock, and the branches of the surrounding trees shook greatly.

At the excessive sense of intimidation, they felt terror and lost control of themselves. One of the adventurers which caught the children, swung the dagger he was holding down on the Divine Beast's child.

“Gyauuuu... n”

The child which had been stabbed, its cry, full of sorrow... echoed throughout the forest.

CHAPTER 69

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST(2)

One of the adventurers which caught the children, swung the dagger he was holding down on the Divine Beast's child.

"Gyauuuu... n"

The child which had been stabbed, its cry, full of sorrow... echoed throughout the forest.

Hearing the cry, and seeing its child stabbed by a dagger, and stopped moving, the Divine Beast's rage heated up further.

"D, Do you understand!? if you go against us, your remaining kids will also become like this.

Y, you obediently wait over there for us to get out of the forest!!!

Ya hear me, if you love your kids, you'll do as you're told!"

This is bad, the kid who got stabbed really died.

I panicked and took out a certain pebble from my storage bag.

And, I used [Cut] on the Skill pasted on the pebble, and immediately pasted it on the kid whose life is about to extinguish.

As I did that, the kid, who had been lying down limply, its wound very quickly healed. ...Phew, I made it.

The Skill pasted on the pebble I took out is the one I cut from the Troll Gazer, [Ultra Regeneration].

Even a troll's [Regeneration] has that much regenerative power.

With [Ultra Regeneration], which can be said to be its higher-ranked Skill, recovery will take only a blink of an eye.

With this, the kid is saved.

However, that doesn't mean the problem is solved.

I rushed out from the back of the tree I was hiding at.

I, who suddenly appeared at that place, the Divine Beast, adventurers... All of them seemed like they didn't know what had happened.

I didn't miss my chance in that confusion, aimed at the adventurers, and activated [King's Intimidation]!

"Guaaa, what, what's happeningggg...!!"

The adventurers who received [King's Intimidation] directly, fell into panic in the blink of an eye, and couldn't move.

I helped the children from those guys who couldn't move, and took them back to the Divine Beast.

"You, who are you? That Skill was 'King's Intimidation', wasn't it?"

Why can a human like you use it?

Furthermore, my boy was undoubtedly stabbed... what's the meaning of this?"

"Divine Beast-sama, I apologise in those fools' stead. Please forgive us"

I first apologised from the bottom of my heart to Divine Beast-sama who was showing a confused look.

Not for myself, but for the Hume race.

From Divine Beast-sama's point of view, I'm probably the same as them.

That's why I apologised from the bottom of my heart.

"...Fumu, you seem different from those guys.

Let me first thank you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for rescuing my children.

It's also thanks to you that my kid who was stabbed, was saved, right?"

Since it is pointless to hide from Divine Beast-sama, I confessed honestly.

"Yes, that was my doing"

As I said that, the kid who was stabbed and is still stained with blood, rubbed its face against my feet.

...Is it trying to thank me?

“That child is also thanking you”

Un, as I expected.

I gently held the kid, who was at my feet, in my arms.

“...That must have been painful, I’m sorry”

As I apologised, it licked around my face as if telling me not to worry.

Well, it’s cute, so I’m glad, but... can you please stop it already?

Looking at the scene, Divine Beast-sama who had calmed down, once again showed an expression of anger, and glared at the adventurers who couldn’t move in panic.

“I am thankful to you, but there is no way I will forgive those fools”

Well, that’s understandable.

Though we are of the same race, I feel nothing but disgust towards them.

I don’t care what happens to them.

They kidnapped Divine Beast-sama’s children, and on top of that, tried to murder them. I don’t think it’s an act of a human.

They most probably walked deep into the forest to search for some kind of prey because of the stupid nobles, including Claude’s order.

And coincidentally (?), they found Divine Beast-sama’s children.

They successfully secured the children, but was discovered by the parent Divine Beast, and that probably result in this.

Since there was already blood on Divine Beast-sama, several adventurers had probably already been killed.

Well, it’s just my conjecture, but I don’t think it’s that far from reality.

“Yes, of course. I, too, cannot forgive those guys”

Hyrosette
Race: Hume
LV: 23
Gender: Male
Age: 31 years
Occupation: Adventurer (B-rank)

[Skill]
Dagger • Extreme
Swift Feet (Large)
Cooking

Chorokyu
Race: Hume
LV: 24
Gender: Male
Age: 29 years
Occupation: Adventurer (B-rank)

[Skills]
Two-handed Axe • Saint
Throwing • Extreme

Groony
Race: Hume
LV: 20
Gender: Male
Age: 33 years
Occupation: Adventurer (C-rank)

[Skills]
Sight Enhancement • Large
Iron Wall
Grinding

As expected of adventurers who step into the Divine Spirit Forest, I feel that they're quite strong.

...However, this guys did things a human should never do, that's what I think.

It's also the same for the dragon's children, what will be caused by their actions? Who will be troubled by it, this guys did not think of that at all.

That's why, I completely do not feel like obstructing Divine Beast-sama in punishing them, no matter what the punishment is.

If the parent dragon and Divine Beast-sama came to the Town of Lucas and the royal capital, and killed the people important to me, thinking about that really horrifies me.

"What is your plan for this guys?"

"Of course, I will kill them"

...Aah, as I expected. Well, that's understandable.
Her own child was stabbed in front of her eyes.

There's no other choices than that, huh.
They are reaping what they sow.

Confirming that I won't stop her, Divine Beast-sama faced towards the sky and raised a war cry.

As she did that, things which look like black arrows appeared in a massive quantity in the air, and all at once... like rain, they rained incessantly onto the three adventurers.

A few thousand? No, maybe a few ten thousand.
A dreadful number of black arrows pierced into the area the adventurers were at one after another.

The rain of arrows then ended, and after the billowing dust disappeared... No trace of the adventurers were left.

A terrifying power... Is this the power of Divine Beast-sama?
The adventurers, comprising of three B-ranks, lost their lives quickly, really quickly.

As I was dumbfounded by the overwhelming power, Divine Beast-sama walked until it was in front of me.
And then, just like Divine Beast-sama's kid previously did, she licked my face.

“Let me thank you once again. What is your name?”

“I, I am Myne. Divine Beast-sama”

“So you’re called Myne, you can call me 《Fenrir》 .
You are my children’s saviour, I allow you to call me by my name”

After the self-introductions (?) ended, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama asked me what I did. And, she asked me why I could use something like [King’s Intimidation], a Skill out of the norm.

...Should I be frank? I was extremely worried.
However, Divine Beast-sama is a being who lives with a truth isolated from the world. Above all else, she is also Kami-sama’s messenger.

After finish worrying, I talked to Fenrir-sama about the Skill I was bestowed by Kami-sama, and the battles I’ve faced until today.

“...I see, the “Abnormality” God mentioned might have been referring to Myne”

Eh? Did I just hear some turbulent words?
Was it my imagination?? I imagined it didn’t I? Kami-sama gossiping about me or something...

“Interesting, our encounter is probably the will of God.
Myne, I recognise you as my friend. You should feel honoured”

Aah, Divine Beast-sama said something...
It seems that I’ve become Divine Beast-sama’s friend.

The shock from the death of the adventurers by overwhelming power was overwritten by a greater surprise, and was completely pushed off into a corner.

And, as soon as the difficult talk ended (?), the children coiled around me.

What in the world is happening with this situation...

I was supposed to be in a match with the stupid noble...

CHAPTER 70

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST (3)

“...Such being the case, I’ll have to hunt a lot of monsters!”

As I explained to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama and tried to stand up, Little Fenrir jumped towards me.

He then let out “Kyuun Kyuun” and wagged his tail as if saying “Take me with you”, and stared at my face.

As I looked towards Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, she stopped it, saying “Give up, just take him along”.

“Umm, but I’ll be fighting monsters, you know? It’ll be dangerous, you know?”

As I said that, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama showed an expression of anger in an instant, and said this.

“That collar, if they weren’t restricted by the orders on it , they won’t lose even to the likes of the monsters around this area”

...Now that she mentioned it, the little Fenrirs are all wearing black collars.

Name: Slave Collar

Special effects: Used by attaching to a neck.

A collar with slave magic sealed into it.

...This is a Slave Collar, huh.

I’ve heard of it before.

By attaching it onto someone’s neck before carrying out specific arrangements and pouring magic power in, the person will then be unable to go against the orders of the owner of the collar.

Unlike other abilities, this ability can only be operated with the permission from the country.

Those guys probably obtained it illegally or are collaborating with someone who received permission from the country.

Either way, King-sama would be able to understand what is happening if I handed His Majesty this, right?

Even so, attaching such a thing on these kids... my anger towards the adventurers from before welled up once more.

...I wonder if I can somehow get this off of them.

I've heard that someone tries to use brute force to take it off, it'll detonate, so I can't approach this carelessly.

U~~~~n.

Isn't there some kind of good idea.

The only ability I have which stands a chance is probably [Unique Magic • Space-time], huh.

For the time being, let's try experimenting.

I activated [Unique Magic • Space-time] towards a pebble I placed on my palm.

I did not imagine a dark vortex, but imagined sending the pebble itself flying into a separate space.

...No good, nothing's happened.

When I verified the Skill previously, using a black vortex, I was able to move to another place in an instant.

In that case, I imagine the pebble itself clad thinly in a black vortex.

I then piled the image of flicking off the pebble, which failed earlier, onto it.

As I did that, the pebble disappeared from my palm, and appeared in the air a little further away... and fell to the ground.

"I did it!"

I reflexively shouted.

“...Myne, what did you just do?”

Divine Beast Fenrir-sama who stared at me fixedly seems like she didn't understand what had happened.

“I used [Unique Magic • Space-time] which I cut from an Orc King.
...Listen up, you guys, don't move”

Saying that, I used [Unique Magic • Space-time] on the collar attached to the neck of the little Fenrir who had been snuggling up to me since a while ago.
I feel like it would be bad if I am impatient and the black vortex touches the little Fenrir, so I carefully and slowly operated it.

“...Yosh!... With this... it's a success!!!!”

It went according to plan, like the previous experimental results, the collar vanished and like the pebble from before, it appeared in the air a little further away and dropped to the ground.
I then continued detaching the collars from the other children.

“Uooooooooooooo”

Seeing the collars gone from the little Fenrirs' necks, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama raised her voice in delight.

In order to hand the “Slave Collars” I dismantled to King-sama, I did not leave them alone and tossed each of them into my storage bag without fail.
It'll be good if this can help settle the case.

After that, I was thanked by Divine Beast Fenrir-sama with all her heart (More specifically, I was jumped at and had my whole face licked), and all of the little Fenrirs got on me and nuzzled against my whole body.

...If this was seen from outside, it'd definitely look like I was attacked by several wolves, wouldn't it?
After receiving their intense gratitude, my whole body was splendidly worn-out (?).

“...Though my hunting was completely postponed by the collars, I’ll be returning to it for now”

While lightly dusting off the mud and the Divine Beasts’ fur over my whole body, I said that, and all of a sudden, I heard a voice that felt like it was resounding within my mind.

[That’s right, we’ll also assist you as thanks]

...Eh!? What was that voice?

[There’s no need to be surprised, right now I am bestowing my sacred protection on you]

This voice, don’t tell me, Divine Beast-sama!?

Name: Myne

LV: 61

Race: Hume

Gender: Male

Age: 15years

Occupation: Hunter

[Skill]

Sprint | new!

Direct Hit | new!

Pursuit Attack | new!

[Divine Beast’s Sacred Protection]

Telepathy <<Fenrir>> | new!

[Uwa, something was added!? Telepathy... is it thanks to this sacred protection that I am hearing this voice?]

[That is correct, even without using your mouth, you will be able to converse with our kind in this way.

And, you will be able to talk with us as long as you desire to, no matter how far apart we are.

If something is troubling you, you can discuss with us at any time]

...Somehow, this is becoming more and more amazing, you know?
Just now was friends, and now it's sacred protection!? What's so good about me, I wonder.

[Now then, why are you idling about? You have to hunt, don't you?
Well, I said this before, but our family will be helping you, so it'll probably end quickly]

Saying that, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama vanished into the forest.

...And, the little Fenrirs are staring at me, saying [Take us with you to hunt, take us with you], while frolicking by my feet.

[Fuhaha, Myne. They seem to be greatly pleased with you.
Won't you take them with you? The children will be happy. They won't be a hindrance to you]

Phew, I've gotten the seal of approval from the parent Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.
They surely won't be a problem when it comes to battle power.

...Furthermore, if they're so attached to me, I can't possibly not bring them with me.

[...Well then, let's go together! But you absolutely musn't force yourselves]

[[[Yay, yay, yaaay—!!]]]

Thus, I set out to hunt with the little Fenrirs.

...However, this will be against the rules, so I'll just accept their goodwill, and only put the ones I hunted into the storage bag for the game.



“What? The other force we sent deep into the forest hasn't come back, you say?”

A report came in stating that the adventurers I gave directions to capture rare monsters hasn't come back.

The “Divine Spirit Forest” is a place with a grandiose name.

I guessed that there would surely be rare monsters deep within the forest, so I dispatched twenty people, centred around B-rank adventurers, who aren't participating in the game.

I sent them out, expecting them to capture lucrative prey like the dragon hatchling caught by coincidence the other day, but...

If they really don't come back, I'd be wasting an unimaginable amount of money. Tch, useless bastards.

"Claude, is it really okay?"

The heir of the Birtild family, Herketh, my ally, called out to me worriedly. This guy has a good face, but he isn't very dependable, or unsatisfactory.

Those who are nobles, have to act more imposingly. Let alone heirs, they'll have to be all the more imposing.

"Herketh, what are you referring to?"

"Everything, that's the way this game is.

Even if it's a joke, he's still a man the royal family approved as Her Highness Sylphid's partner, no?

No matter how many plans we put together, can we really win with just this?

Claude, you do remember that we'll be disinherited if we were to lose, right?"

I was thinking what he was talking about, so he meant this.

"...Herketh, you have to firstly understand that you are a noble.

Nobles have to be more refined and courageous.

Moreover, even if that brat is stronger than we expected,

we had 30 people hunting beforehand. There's no way a single person can surpass that gap, am I right?

Our victory has been decided from the start, so don't worry"

...Yes, this is a match where our victory has been decided from the start.

Tomorrow, at about this time, we'll probably be drunk on high-grade sake, celebrating our victory.

I wish tomorrow would come faster.

CHAPTER 71

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST (4)

Although I went hunting with the little Fenrirs, they certainly are excellent. Their ability to search for enemies is especially worthy for mention.

[Over here, over here—]

In the blink of an eye, the position of the monster is specified, and I started running there.

I didn't need to act, and it was annihilated.

It's exactly like a search & destroy.

They then held the dead monster in their mouth, and dragged it towards me.

[[[Praise us, praise us]]]

They wagged their tails quickly as they adorably frolic around me, which made me feel warm and fluffy inside.

...Nonono, I can't feel warm and fluffy!
I'll have to defeat it!

I caressed the little Fenrirs' heads, and while playing with their fluffy throats, I retorted.

[Amazing! But please leave some for me.
Also, can you search for strong monsters if possible?]

As I requested that of the kids, they immediately said [Leave it to us!] and broke into a run.

As expected of them, though they are kids, they are Divine Beast Fenrirs. Their momentum is staggering, my stamina already reached its limits after moving together for just an hour.

[...Sorry, let me rest for a while...]

As I sat down, the little Fenrirs once again came to my side, and sat down.

[[[Pet us, pet us]]]

As I petted them, they purred, and shut their eyes in pleasure.

The number of monsters I've defeated until now is forty.

A lot of them were Forest Apes and Sidewinders, but there's also these guys.

Name: Midnight Mantis

LV: 32

Race: Mantis Family

Gender:

[Skills]

Two-handed Scythe • Extreme

Strong Arm

[Ability]

Camouflage

This was a large praying mantis, and I was surprised at it suddenly appearing behind me.

Since the little Fenrirs had been on the lookout, I managed to survive without problems, but if I was alone, I might get injured.

It seems that the reason I didn't notice it getting close is due to its ability, [Camouflage].

Name: Midnight Dragonfly

LV: 29

Race: Dragonfly Family

Gender:

[Skills]

AoE Magic • Wind Large

[Ability]

Paralysis Breath

Levitation

A large dragonfly.

If you inhaled even a little of the breath it spat out, your body would become paralysed and unable to move about.

That's why basically a one hit knockout is considered the best choice of action against it.

Well, in my case, I immediately snatched its ability, so that has nothing to do with me.

It was originally a small dragonfly, which transformed into a monster, and became gigantic. It's the same for the mantis from before, by the way.

I don't know the details as to why normal living things transform into monsters.

According to one theory, it's said that it's the same as the monsters within a labyrinth, they absorbed some kind of magic power.

Name: Forest Drill

LV: 37

Race: Ape Family

[Skill]

Strong Arm • Extreme

Physical Strength Enhancement • Extreme

Martial Arts: Heavy Fist

[Ability]

Roar

A Forest Ape is a monster which specialises in agility and attacks, but this one, though it's also an ape, seems to be a monster which places importance on strength. It's quite the troublesome monster, since it can even use martial arts, but a lot of them move independently, so it was an easy prey to me.

By the way, I've heard that its meat is an ultra high-class item which can be sold for an outrageously high price.

I was thinking of hunting lots of them as souvenirs for Aisha and Sylphy.

While taking a break, I checked the defeated monsters as I worked.

"...Since it didn't take much time to search for enemies, our hunting speed became really fast, didn't it?"

While confirming the contents of my storage bag, I muttered without using telepathy, but the little Fenrirs

[[[Praise us, praise us]]]

they said, and came near me while rubbing their faces against me.

Since there's really no doubt it's all thanks to this kids, I affectionately rubbed their throats with gratitude.

They seemed to like having their throats touched, and the three of them had a look of pleasure.

Yosh, I've got enough rest, let's continue the hunt.

[Yosh, let's hang on for a while longer, okay?]

[[[We'll hang on, ou!]]]

Well, even if I say hang on, the one exhausted will only be me, and the little Fenrir's have way more energy though...

Once again, I was guided by the little Fenrirs, and as we went deeper and deeper into the forest, in front of my eyes was a large pond... no, a lake?

[Are there monsters here too?]

As I asked the little Fenrirs that, they replied [[[There is—, a big one, you know—]]]

...A big one?

I took a glance, but there's nothing like that anywhere...

“However, if that's what the kids say, it definitely exists,” I thought, and used [Presence Detection • Moderate LV3]

...As I did that... There it is!!

What is this!? Where is it from, eeeeeeeeeehhh!?

At about the same time I confirmed its existence with [Presence Detection • Moderate LV3], the surface of the lake started rippling, and a gigantic black fish (?) like thing jumped out.

Name: Firis • Catfish

LV: 63

Race: Catfish Family

Gender : —

[Skills]

Earthquake

Presence Detection • Large

Magic • Water Colossal

[Ability]

Roar

Swallowing Whole

Uu, this is... A catfish monster!?

Just like the little Fenrirs said, it's really big!

The scene of its big frame, which should be around 6~7 metres, leaping out was quite impressive.

It's level was higher than mine, and it feels like the first strong enemy in a while.

...However, how can I defeat it if it's in the water?

While worrying about a way to defeat it, the earth suddenly shook greatly.

This is bad, isn't this the catfish's Skill?

It feels bad that I didn't steal its Skills, since it only leapt out for a moment.

I accidentally fell down at the violent shaking.

The little Fenrirs yelped while crouching down.

...For the time being, I can't do anything as long as the shaking continues.

I specified its location using [Presence Detection • Moderate LV3] and made a gigantic stone with [Realize], before dropping it from above.

It easily avoided it since there was water resistance, but the shaking has calmed down for now.

Yosh, that guys rising to the water surface again.

I predicted the location it'd leap up from, and lied in wait to steal its Skills.

At the same time, I picked up a moderately large stone, and activated [Body Enhancement • Large LV3][Physical Enhancement • Large LV2] [Strong Arm • Saint].

It then finally leapt out from the water surface with a terrifying force.

I quickly stole [Earthquake] and [Presence Detection • Large]... but, it seemed to be aiming for that moment as well, and a gigantic water ball flew towards me.

Ku!! Is that [Magic • Water Colossal]!?

I can only steal one or two Skills at most in the moment it leaps out.

It used the Skill other than the ones I stole in that moment... How unlucky!!!

I can't avoid it at this distance, and if I do avoid it, the little Fenrirs might get hit.

I can only endure it!!!

I used [Water Attribute • Resistance] and [Defender], and stop the magic it fired!!

The sound of me receiving a direct hit from the magic resounded all around, and the water ball popped, water scattering around the surroundings.

Thanks to using defence type Skills in advance, I was able to suppress the damage received considerably, but even so, I fell down in a kneeling position.

Seeing me injured, the little Fenrirs howled at the water surface.

I casted [Magic • Large Recovery] a few times to cope for the time being.

[It's dangerous so back off, I'll defeat it the next time it jumps up]

I called out to the little Fenrirs, and confirmed its location with [Presence Detection • Moderate LV3] again.

Although it was aiming directly for the water surface, I could see that it was swimming unsteadily, probably an effect from when I stole its [Presence Detection • Large] just now,

I also snatched away its [Earthquake].

It can only attack from the water surface now.

...In that case, if I wait, it'd probably attack from over there.

Just as I expected, it started moving towards the water surface.

Prepare yourself, it's my turn now!

Once again, it leapt out of the water surface with a terrifying force.

This time I steal its [Magic • Water Colossal] without fail, and threw a stone as large as a fist at full power.

...However, the stone which I threw at full force couldn't bear the force, and the moment it hit the catfish, the stone fell to less than half of its original size.

I couldn't put an end to its life, but it seemed to have received quite the damage, and dived into the water again before blood rose to the surface.

"Not having a projectile weapon really hurts, I can only try using magic, huh... However, the strongest magic I have is AoE magic... should I use it?"

As I thought until that part, I was hit by an idea.

“...This can probably work, right?”

Third time's the charm, they say, let's kill it with this!

The catfish who was injured and raging, rushed towards the water surface with a great speed.

Hasn't it realised that it doesn't have any Skills anymore?

I thought it would escape since it doesn't have anymore means of attacking, but I'm thankful for this.

And then, it leapt out from the water for a third time.

...Now!!!!

The Skill I used was [Unique Magic • Space-time].

A black vortex appeared in its path, and the catfish leapt into it.

...Of course, the place I connected to before it entered it, is the “ground” a few metres away from me.

If it can't dive underwater, there's no way it'll be a hard fight!

I equipped my steel dagger, and stabbed it towards the body of the flopping catfish. After the stabbing with the dagger, I ran horizontally.

I rushed away from the catfish which let out a terrifying shriek, and stole all its remaining abilities, and pasted them onto a pebble.

Because of its big body, it didn't immediately die, but violently shook its body, and continued struggling.

As it loudly struggled, I hesitated to approach it.

It might take some time, but I casted [Sorcery Extremity LV2] and used [Magic • Wind], and delivered damage from a distance.

...I fired about ten blows of [Magic • Wind].

Its struggling finally started calming down.

I roughly casted defence type Skills, and carefully approached its head, and stabbed my steel dagger towards its forehead.

The catfish jolted for a moment, before it became completely still.

“Phew, it’s over～”

As I said that, the little Fenrirs who were sitting down hard on the floor flew towards me with a great momentum.

They were probably worried, huh. They licked my face intensely.

[[[Are you okay? Are you okay? Wasn’t it painful?]]]

[Un, I’m alright! Thanks for worrying!]

After getting healed by the little Fenrirs for a while, I started dismantling the catfish.

“...If I bring this, I’ll probably get quite a lot of points, won’t I?”

As expected, I was a little tired, so today’s hunt will have to end here.

While thinking that, I sent a telepathic message to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, and the result was that I will be guided to their residence.

[[[We’ll guide you to our home!]]]

Thus, my bed for tonight will be in Divine Beast Fenrir-sama’s residence.

Thinking that I originally had to hunt alone on top of fighting all night, I am really thankful for this.

I’m really grateful to these kids and Divine Beast Fenrir-sama!

Name: Myne

LV: 63 (61→63) LevelUp!

Race: Hume

Gender: Male

Age: 15 years

Occupation: Hunter

[Acquired Skills]

Two-handed Scythe • Extreme | new!

Martial Arts: Heavy Fist | new!

Earthquake | new!

Presence Detection • Large | new!

Magic • Water Colossal | new!

CHAPTER 72

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST (5)

Guided by the little Fenrirs, we proceeded deeper and deeper into the forest. They probably knew that I was tired from the fight with the catfish, as the little Fenrirs revived their search and destroy.

Every time they defeat a monster, they wagged their tails wildly while saying [Praise us, praise us], as they brought the monster's corpse over holding it with their mouth, so monster materials are rapidly piling up within my storage bag.

I probably have gotten considerably used to dismantling using [Cut], as I can now generally finish it in about thirty seconds.

...Rather, the little Fenrirs' pace is too fast, if I can't even do that, I wouldn't be in time.

If they say "Praise us", I'll naturally praise them since they've worked hard. However, they become more and more eager from the praises, and continued their search and destroy, I can't judge whether this is a virtuous cycle or a vicious one...

Even so, we seem to approaching our destination little by little, as one of the little Fenrirs clung onto my back and said [We're almost there, almost there].

Their residence which we arrived at is a large cavern. Inside it are walls where like the ones from the Labyrinth of Strength, light is rising from the surface, and is quite bright.

And, probably controlled by magic or something, the temperature within the cavern was neither too hot nor too cold, and is kept at a comfortable temperature.

[You're living in quite the nice place, aren't you!]

As I talked to the little Fenrirs, they said [Comfortable, comfortable—!], rolled around the floor and started playing.

Divine Beast Fenrir-sama seem to have arrive before us, and looked at us playing around as she smiled happily.

[Good work in protecting my children. How was it, weren't they helpful?]

Divine Beast Fenrir-sama proudly said that to me.
Un, she's quite the doting parent.

I thought that for a moment, but since there's no doubt they were helpful, I expressed my gratitude and said "Yes! They helped me a lot"

[Mama, we were helpful, weren't we helpful?]

Two of them, aside from the one clinging onto my shoulder, ran over to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, and dived at her.

Fwump, a soft sound of impact was made, and they snuggled up to their parent, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, pat her with their paws and behaving like spoilt children.

Divine Beast Fenrir-sama just left it as it is as she gazed at them.

Speaking of the other kid who was clinging onto me...

There wasn't a foothold, so he climbed up from my back with all his might, and finally manage to reach the top of my head, and made a triumphant look.

Naturally, my head is smaller than this kid, so it was quite unstable, but he's hanging on quite well.

Well, let's just leave him until he gets tired of it.

This kid was the one who got stabbed by the adventurer, but... it's quite attached to me, isn't he.

Name: Fenrir (Child)

LV: 31

Race: Divine Beast

Status: Under Tame (Myne)

[Skill]

Divine Beast Twinstrike

Magic Eye of Gravity

Ultra Regeneration

[Ability]
Great Howl <<Wose-Kamui>>
Strong Legs

...Eh? Really??
I didn't use [Tame] though?

Why, why??

[Fenrir-sama!? Something bad has happened!?!]

I was panicking, and Divine Beast Fenrir-sama called out to me.

[Hm? What's wrong, Myne]

[...I don't know why, but this kid... was Tamed by me...]

[Tame... Enslavement? ... There's certainly such a Skill.
Myne, did you use it on that child?]

[No, not at all... I had it from the start, but I've never used it]

[...Fumu, boy, come here for a while]

As Divine Beast Fenrir-sama called out to the little Fenrir who climbed on my head, it barked "Waun", jumped down from my head, and ran towards her mother at full speed.

For while, the two people (?) talked about something, and the little Fenrir once again returned to me.

Then, it clawed its way up my back again, and climbed on top of my head as if to say that it was the best position.

[I tried talking to the child, but there doesn't seem to be any doubt that he's particularly attracted to something from you.

Since he came to like you a lot after you saved him, he desired it himself, and entered the Tame status.

In the first place, it's impossible to Tame us Divine Beasts, so I didn't really understand the mechanism behind it since there isn't any precedent.

U~n, is this okay?

As I thought that, I gently raised the little Fenrir who was on my head with both of my hands, and brought it in front of me.

[What is it—?], it said, as it wagged its tail happily, making a flapping sound, and stared at me.

Since the person (?) himself didn't mind, it should be okay... *(TLN: To explain the (?) and the one before this, the words are 二人 and 本人. In both the words, the second kanji is person, so the (?) is questioning whether they're 'people')*

[Well, if you act reliably, then there wouldn't be any particular problems]

Un, I've also obtained authorisation from the parent.

[But... I'll be going back tomorrow, you know?]

[!]

As I said that, the little Fenrir who had been wagging his tail stopped wagging, and looked at me with sad puppy eyes.

[Don't leave—, don't go—]

While saying that, it lightly bit my arm.

Even if he says that, I have to return, and after this I'll return to the capital and the wedding ceremony is waiting for me.

As I looked towards Divine Beast Fenrir-sama with a troubled face, as expected, she was also making one.

In the end, both Divine Beast Fenrir-sama and I took several hours to persuade him with "I'll come back again", and somehow gotten him to agree.

In the middle of the persuasion, the remaining two little Fenrirs also said "No—" and burst into tears, which made it really difficult.

By the way, the remaining two didn't get Tamed.

In the end, I didn't manage to understand why only one of them got Tamed.

After the long persuasion, they are finally going to sleep, but the three kids came to me and said [Let's sleep together—], so we lied down together.

I fell asleep in a blink of an eye since the kids' fluffy fur feel really good.

...Un, a whole lot of things happened today.

This match will end tomorrow, so let's do our best!

Well then, good night!!!



“You lost sight of Myne-dono's whereabouts!?”

Hearing the report from my subordinate, I became dizzy instantly.

Although Myne-dono is a commoner, he is the fiance of the First Princess Her Highness Sylphid.

There mustn't be even the slightest chance of anything happening to him.

“How did you lose sight of him!?”

As I raised my voice, one of my subordinates apologetically replied.

“...Actually, Myne-dono crossed over the designated area, and proceeded deeper into the forest...

The person in charge tried to chase after him, but was obstructed by a monster, and he lost sight of him while battling...”

I see, he exited the area, which means there is possibility of meeting extremely strong monsters.

If he were to battle with such monsters, it will certainly take time...

However, isn't that bad in itself?

Stepping into such an area by himself, there will be danger to his life.

This game's results have already been determined, a fixed game, so to speak.

Her Highness Sylphid's fiancé cannot lose his life for such a farce.

With the course of events, I understand that the plan would not be feasible if he doesn't participate.

However, in my opinion, considering the danger to himself, I really did not want him to participate.

...Nothing can be done this late into the game, and His Highness Alto and Her Highness Sylphid have approved that he will be alright.

I will believe in those words for now, and can only pray that he will be safe.

"...Quickly contact the royal capital and send for two platoons from the first and second knight units.

As soon as they arrive, we will search for Myne-dono"

"Yessir! Understood!"

"Please let us make it," I wished in my mind.

Myne-dono is a commoner, so he is different from the usual nobles we meet, and has an extremely likeable disposition.

The conversation I had with him last night was indeed pleasant.

A character like his becoming a part of royalty is something we knights really welcome.

Yes, a new royal family.

There isn't anything to be dissatisfied about with the current royal family, but if Myne-dono is added into it, I feel like it will change into something else.

Although we only had a short conversation, his personality made me feel expectation.

The wedding ceremony which will be held before long will be the first step towards that.

...That's why, we absolutely cannot lose him in such a place.

Please let us make it, I once again mutter in my heart.

CHAPTER 73

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST(6)

“A sunny place is really nice!”

When I woke up, I gently stood up in order to not wake the little Fenrirs who had been coiling around my body, and as I exited the cavern, I saw a bright blue sky spreading out, with not even a single cloud in it.

Since persuading the little Fenrirs continued late into the night, I feel like I woke up way later than usual.

To get rid of my drowsiness, I used a [Continuous: Water] pebble to wash my face, and Divine Beast Fenrir-sama lumbered out of the cavern.

[Good morning!]

I gave my usual cheerful greeting.

As I did that, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama made a calm expression and replied [Aah, good morning].

[Now then, I'll hand you the monsters I've hunted yesterday]

As she (Divine Beast Fenrir-sama) said that, the black vortex like when I used [Unique Magic • Space-time] appeared.

It seems that this black vortex is a Divine Beast's unique ability, and is similar to a time-stop storage bag.

From within it, monster corpses spilled and fell out one by one.

Uwa, uwawawa.

So many, there's too many!!

I was involuntarily lost for words at the monsters endlessly gushing forth.

...As expected, this amount isn't good, the time-stop storage bag's volume isn't enough

at all.

Using the one the royal family gave me will be against the rules, so I can't use that. Rather, even if I were to use it, they won't fit, will they?

I have the 10t storage bag, but this amount is too much, and it'll go bad before it's processed.

In the first place, even with the portion I hunted with the kids yesterday, the amount was already quite terrifying.

...Really, what should I do with this?

Probably realising I made a troubled expression, she asked me what was wrong in curiosity.

As I explained the reason, she said [Well then, I'll take care of this], and tossed them back into the black vortex.

In the middle of that, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama reflected, whispered[I was too enthusiastic], and I decided to pretend that I didn't hear that.

As Divine Beast Fenrir-sama and I talked about what will happen from now on, the kids said [[[We woke up—]]], and tottered out from the cavern.

Like yesterday, the three of them rushed and leapt... towards me.

"Why isn't it your mother but me?" I thought, and soon the three brats collided with me with a lot of force.

I couldn't receive that much force, and accidentally fell on my backside, but the kids did not seem to care and licked my face.

Is it probably because I'll soon be returning? I feel like they're acting much more spoiled.

...Even with the part I hunted, it was already quite a lot for the game's materials.

Also, I've hunted quite a lot of strong monsters, so I can expect a lot of points, right?

That being the case, let's play with the kids for a while.



When the sun rose to right above me, I decided to return to the base camp
The kids seem like they haven't played enough, but as expected, it'd be bad if I went back any later than this, so I once again said "I'll come back again", and released myself.

Before returning, I [Cut] [Ultra Regeneration] from the little Fenrir, and [Paste] [Regeneration] in exchange.

I then [Paste] [Regeneration] on the remaining two.

I must have [Ultra Regeneration] for emergencies! After all, I can get [Regeneration] easily.

[I've pasted [Regeneration] on the kids.

I don't think there will be any cases like the one from before, but if it does happen, I think they'll be alright]

The three of them leapt towards me in great joy.

[We won't get hurt anymore—!Gao—] (*TLN: A roar. Yes, they've went from howl to purr, and now roar*)

No, you'll get hurt... , it's just that you'll heal...

I explained to them properly, and warned them not to act recklessly.

...Un, I'm really worried about them.

While Divine Beast Fenrir-sama smiled, she told me "I'll look after them properly so don't worry".

This kids, you'll never understand what they will do...

The time for us to separate them came.

Though it is only for the time being, as expected, I am feeling a little lonely.

[My friend, Myne. Our family will always welcome you]

[Yes, thank you very much! I can come here immediately with [Unique Magic • Space-time] so I'll definitely come here again!]

That's right! If I am thinking of coming, I can come immediately!! I won't be lonely!

Saying my words of separation, I used [Unique Magic • Space-time].

I imagined the place I hunted my first Forest Ape, and confirmed the other side of the vortex using [Presence Detection • Large] which I just learned.

"...Yosh, there's no one there!"

Looking over my shoulder, I waved my hand, and leapt into the vortex with a "Ei!".

I confirmed the situation with my sight after I leapt, and just when I was about to close the black vortex...

A violet little brat jumped out from the vortex with an amazing momentum!

"Eh?"

At the moment the vortex disappeared, The brat rammed into me violently.
It's the little Fenrir who behaved like spoilt child the most.

[Wafu!!]

Uwa!? He followed me here!?... What should I do...

[Myne... It can't be helped so take him along with you.
If you say that he's a Fenrir, you might invite unnecessary trouble.
It would be best to pretend that he's a Forest • Wolf]

Nonono, it'll be exposed, you know!... Wait, maybe it won't?
They won't be able to know if they don't appraise his race, and he's still small, so his violet shade isn't that conspicuous.

If I stick the excess Skills and Abilities on this kid, he can defend himself... I think?

[...Understood, I will look after him.
However, if there's an uproar, I will return him, okay?]

After emphasising that to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, I warned the little Fenrir.

[Understand? You need to listen to what I say, okay?

Also, you can't attack anyone other than bad guys, okay? Also if you think that something is dangerous, immediately tell me telepathically, okay?]

[Understood—!Wafuu]

Is this really alright...

I'm quite worried, but there's no helping it, I guess.

As my shoulders fell dejectedly, he climbed his way up, saying "Heave-ho, heave-ho", and got onto his usual place on my head.

While my head was patted by the little Fenrir, I walked towards the base camp.



"M, Myne-dono!? It's good that you're safe!!"

As soon as I arrived at the base camp, the knight leader called out to me with staggering energy.

It seems that I went too deep so they lose sight of me, and they were in an uproar. ...Is that so, with my position as a commoner hunter right now, I'm sorry.

It seems that my title as the First Princess's fiancée is more important than I thought. Originally, he didn't want me to participate in such a game, but because of the King's order and knowing the game's real purpose, he reluctantly agreed.

Well, since it's from the knight-san and his group, it's natural, I guess. Somehow, I feel really guilty towards them.

...However, there's a chance that my Skills will be exposed if someone watches me as I fight, so it's inevitable from my standpoint.

However, I seem to have caused them quite a lot of trouble and worry, so I'll have to properly apologise!

"Knight leader-san, and also the knights who searched for me... I am very sorry for worrying you.

...Also, thank you for searching for me"

As I said that with a loud voice and firmly bowed, I apologised from the bottom of my heart.

They probably never thought that I would suddenly apologise.
Starting from knight leader-san, all the knights who were there were shocked.

“...Ah, please raise your head! Myne-dono!
As long as you understand and fortunately you returned unharmed.
There’s no problem as long as you take care from now on”

As I raised my head, all the knights complicated expressions from before turned into smiles, and I felt relieved that my feelings were properly communicated.

“...By the way, Myne-dono, I’ve been curious since just now”

Un?

“What’s that wolf child riding on your head?”

...Aah, that’s a natural reaction, I guess.

CHAPTER 74

THE GAME WITHIN THE DIVINE SPIRIT FOREST (7)

“...By the way, Myne-dono, I’ve been curious since just now”

Hm?

“What’s that wolf child riding on your head?”

...Aah, that’s the natural reaction, I guess.

When I bowed, his figure, desperately clinging onto me as he dangled to and fro was seen.

I just felt admiration that we could have a serious conversation without laughing. I feel like the knight leader is subtly enduring his laughter...

The knights look like they’re very interested in the little Fenrir who was patting my head happily with its paw.

“...It was attacked by a bad monster deep in the forest so I saved him but...
As you can see, it’s become attached to me...
That’s why, I was thinking of registering it as a support monster”

Un, I won’t tell lies!

I saved him from the attack from bad adventurers, so it’s not wrong!

“Oh, this is rare.

For a wild wolf to get so attached to you...

But if you look at it this way, it’s quite cute, isn’t it?”

As one of the knights said that, he stared at the little Fenrir.

“Wafu?”

The little Fenrir who had been stared at tilted his head to one side and asked [What is

it?]

...Un, he's awfully cute, isn't he.

Including the knight who were looking from the side, a smile surfaced on everyone's faces at that adorable gesture.

As everyone softened at the little Fenrir's cuteness, one of the knights ran out from the forest and returned to the base camp.

"Leader-dono, the adventurers who are participating in the game for Claude-dono will soon return!"

Hearing the words of the knight while he was somewhat out of breath, the softened atmosphere became tense.

"...Understood. The time time to hand them their final notice has finally come. All members, get to your positions! Prepare yourselves just in case they attempt to escape!"

Hearing the knight leader's instructions which was filled with fighting spirit, his subordinates simultaneously ran to their assigned posts. The way all the members put in their fighting spirit was amazing, and so was the knight leader.

"Myne-dono, the time has finally come. This dangerous game you participated in is one big arrest. Let's settle this"

As he grinned broadly, the leader slowly walked to the open space where the verdict would be delivered.

[...Let's go as well]

[I don't really understand, but let's go—!]

...My nervousness was ruined immediately. Well, that's how it is for this kid, I guess.

After all, it's a conflict between humans, I don't think a Divine Beast would have any interest in that.

Though I feel like my enthusiasm dimmed slightly, the little Fenrir and I chased after the leader in a half-jog.

Of course, the little Fenrir is on my head, and didn't walk with his own legs.

...Well, that's alright, I guess.



"Oh? Commoner, you didn't run?

The knights were kicking up a fuss, so I thought you were eaten by a monster or something.

It's good that you're safe"

Claude called out to me, and is as disagreeable as always.

I wonder how long he'll take this attitude with me?

"...Hm? You, what's that wolf on your head?

Isn't it quite the strange wolf...

Fumu, alright. Give it to me.

Consider it an honour that I, a noble, will keep it for you! Fuhahaha"

...What did he say? Is this guy's brain okay?

Although I was angry, I politely rejected him for now.

"This kid is an important member of my family.

I am sorry, but I cannot yield him to you"

As I declared that, Claude instantly raged like the day before yesterday.

"You bastard, you've are taking that contemptuous attitude of yours against me like the day before yesterday!

Who do you think I am? I am Claude Roselia, the next head of the Roselia family.

A lowly commoner like you is an existence who shouldn't even wish to open your mouth!

...I'll forgive your rudeness up until now if you hand over that wolf right now.

Hand that wolf over immediately!!!"

It's no use... I can't have a conversation with this guy.
Any more than this would be a waste of time.

...As I glanced over to the knight leader, he returned a nod, and interrupted the conversation.

“Claude-dono, how many times do I have to say it?
Myne-dono is the Her Highness Sylphid's fiancée who King-sama has approved of.
Have you forgotten that this game was conducted on King-sama's permission?
If you are to act unreasonably to your opponent, a fiancée of royalty, then...”

As the knight leader said that, he probably remembered last night's circumstances.
He then reluctantly withdrew.

Because of his blunt attitude, I wonder how he is as a noble.

“...Well then, take out the monsters you've hunted from your storage bags.
Let's start with inspecting Claude-dono and the other nobles”

As the knight leader said that, the adventurer Claude-dono hired took out the dismantled materials one by one.

“Fuhahaha, how's that! Look at this amount!!!
A commoner who isn't an adventurer can't possibly hunt this much, can he? Without
any discussion, this is our victory!!!”

Claude announced his victory, but as expected all of the materials he submitted are obviously spoiled.
The knight leader who saw those materials, with an undisturbed expression, asked Claude.

“...Claude-dono, may I ask you a question?”

The knight leader used an indifferent tone and started verifying the damage onto the materials.

“...Damaged, you say? Even this commoner's will be like that”

Hearing those words, I took out the materials from my storage bag in silence. My materials are naturally in a freshly-dismantled state without damage, and its freshness is retained.

“...It looks obviously different though? In what way are they the same? Furthermore, the materials the adventurers Claude-dono hired are holding... They are obviously deteriorated by time, are they not?”

As the knight leader said that, the nobles and adventurers looked around. As they did that, the adventurers and nobles who knew what was happening, their behaviour visibly turned weird.

“Which reminds me, there were quite a few people hunting before the game, weren’t there?

The knights have properly confirmed this. Where are the materials from that time?”

Even their hunting beforehand has been said... they clearly trembled. Claude’s face also cramped somewhat.

“...You, what are you trying to say?”

The damaged condition of the materials you brought, and the fact that you hunted before the game started.

Don’t you think it is strangely coincidental?

Judging from its damaged condition, it feels like it’s been left alone for about a day?

Don’t you think that it’s really strange?”

“ ... ”

“On top of that, we’ve confirmed the situation of those adventurers hunting during the game.

You hunted way less than the ones you brought out, right?”

...Huh, they fell silent.

I think that falling silent here means you agree, though...

“Claude-dono, are you cheating in the game you personally proposed to King-sama?”

“...I did no such thing”

“For now, we’ll hear your excuse in the royal capital”

The adventurers who heard the knight leader’s words, fled at full speed.

...Well, that’s understandable.

If it is found that they cheated, they will naturally be judged.

Even if they explain with “I am only employed”, there’s a difference whether something can be done or not.

If they consciously did something which cannot be done, they’ll escape like this.

Thus, their escape... is confessing their crimes.

“Do not let them get away! Arrest every single one of them!!”

The knights who heard the order started moving simultaneously to arrest the adventurers who escaped and the noble sons.

Claude also fled, but was arrested by the leader himself.

“L, let go of me!! You insolent fellow! Let go of me, I tell you!!!”

Claude who was struggling was pinned down by a few people, and was bound with a rope.

As I saw Claude who was raving loudly while being dragged off, I remembered.

“Ah, the debt for insulting my house... I haven’t paid you back. Tohoho”

Thus, the curtain closed on this lengthy game.

CHAPTER 75

BACKER

As the knights were cleaning up the base camp, the knight leader called out to me.

“Come to think of it, Myne-dono.

We haven’t tallied the monster Myne-dono hunted, but what should we do with it? Since you went to the trouble to hunt them, why don’t we tally them?”

That’s true, I’ve went to the trouble to beat the catfish and the others after all...
Let’s have a look.

“If it’s not a hassle, please!”

“Yes, gladly. Well then, can you take it out over there?”

I placed the portion that only I hunted at the place he specified.

At first, the knight leader and the surrounding knights had calm expressions, but as the amount accumulated, their expressions changed into that of surprise.

“M, Myne-dono... Did you really hunt this many?”

“Yes, this kid is really good at finding monsters, so searching for an enemy didn’t take much time at all!”

The knights all turned their sight at the same time towards the little Fenrir, who was yawning “Fuwaa~” on top of my head.

After they stared at the little Fenrir for a while, they returned to checking the accumulated materials once again.

After about 10 minutes passed since the knights started their work, the knight leader raised his voice.

“T, t, this is!??”

At the place the knight leader who raised his voice pointed was... the catfish materials.

“...Myne-dono, I don’t think it’s possible, but... that catfish type monster... is that a Catfish?”

“Yes! It’s a big catfish-san!”

As I spiritedly reply, the little Fenrir said “Wafu!” as raised one paw, and supported it.

“...Seriously...”

Somehow, your speech suddenly got informal, you know?

“Sigh, His Highness Alto approved of you, so...”

I am told by the knight leader that this catfish-kun.
The subjugation records in the past can be counted.

Contrary to its appearance, its meat has an extremely refined taste, and is quite delicious, but... it only has worth as material.
No, rather, most of its body can be eaten, so as an ingredient, the whole body is valuable.

However, it requires an extremely large amount of effort to defeat this guy.
At any rate, it doesn’t really appear from underwater.

It was the same as when I fought it, but it came out from the water for only an instant.
Moreover, it fired a powerful magic towards me in that one moment.

It’s an extremely troublesome monster to people who don’t have powerful long range attacks.

Therefore, the average adventurer and knight can hardly defeat it.

Because of that, though it is certainly a delicious ingredient, it can be sold for a high price...
Considering the time and effort and injuries when obtaining it, it is a monster

everyone keeps their distance from.

Such a rarely seen monster has been dismantled and is in front of him.
Well, even the knight leader would raise his voice.

After that, while periodically hearing voices of astonishment raised from here and there, I wait for the end of the assessment.

That was many so it took some time, but little Fenrir helped me to kill time, so I wasn't bored at all.

[GaoGao, Wafuu!]

Which reminds me, if we're going to live together, he will need a name...
I'll discuss it with Sylphy and Aisha once I return.

While thinking that and squishing the little Fenrir's paw pad, the knight leader started talking to me with a tired voice.

"Myne-dono, thank you for waiting.

The total results are out... The conclusion, you've worked too hard.

Firstly, the dismantling of the materials are flawless.

Though the amount is less than the adventurers' who cheated, the points are high, since all of them are strong monsters.

Honestly speaking, even if we overlook their cheating, it will still be Myne-dono's victory...

You really overdid it"

I'm really shocked for some reason, but I've worked hard so isn't it alright?

They then decided to purchase the materials, and we returned to the royal capital.



[Well then, can I talk to King-sama about Fenrir-sama?]

[Aah, that's not a problem.

This misconduct of the Hume race, considering Myne, I will specially forgive it, but definitely not a second time.

You must correctly convey my message to the king.

If that king takes my words lightly... at that time, he will experience regret firsthand]

Aah, that's a grave responsibility.

If I don't explain well, a dreadful situation of Divine Beast vs Hume might occur.

I'm quite nervous.

[What, there's no need to think so deeply about it.

There probably isn't that many fools who would take my words lightly, knowing that it was said by a Divine Beast.

If you like, you can tell the King about your power.

I'll become your backer.

There's probably no one who would think of opposing someone who has the Divine Beast Fenrir-sama as his backer, kukuku]

She inadvertently said a dangerous thing.

This Divine Beast-sama.

...However, speaking frankly about my ability... huh.

Come to think of it, I've thought about it before.

As long as I don't have a great backer, I can't be open about it.

...Certainly, if it's Divine Beast-sama, she would be enough as the great backer I thought of.

Rather than opening up after my marriage, and living in fear, it might be better to open up before the marriage, and break it off.

"...Myne-dono, Myne-dono"

"Eh?"

"Don't just 'Eh?'. We will soon reach the royal capital"

While I was recalling the conversation on what I should do from now on with Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, we seem to have arrived at the capital.

...Now then, I'll have to meet Ou-sama and convey Divine Beast Fenrir-sama's message.

“Wafu?”

He was probably worrying, looking at my condition.

Unusually, the little Fenrir wasn't on my head, but rolled into a ball on my lap, and licking my hand.

[...It'll be alright, no need to worry about me]

[Cheer up—, cheerfulness is the most important—, Gao—]

Encouraged by the little Fenrir, a smile reflexively surfaced on my face.

Un, that's right! Smiles are the most important!

After all, sooner or later, I'll must walk on this path.

The peerless Divine Beast-sama will become my backer!

There isn't anything happier than this.

Bring out your courage, Myne!!



“Ooh, Myne! It's good that you returned safely”

Ou-sama greeted me with a smile across his whole face.

The game this time proceeded just as planned, so of course he would be happy.

Presently, Claude and the others seems to be under intense investigation.

Since we have to quickly safeguard the dragon child, and return it to its parent.

...The knight leader isn't good with deceiving with words, so they'd probably be tortured or something.

Though they are paying for their actions, it doesn't really feel good, so it was correct not to ask.

Thank you for your consideration, knight leader!

“Myne.

I heard that you have something to report to me, but what kind of talk is it?”

“For now, I’ll report about this time’s game, but...
Is it possible to clear out the people?”

As I said that and looked around me, Ou-sama told his surrounding close aides to withdraw, and we moved to the royalty’s private room.

“As expected, we can’t be together alone. Alto, you come too”

Brother-in-law-san who was told that by King-sama also moved with us.

“...Now then, let’s hear it”

I started talking about the things that occurred in the Divine Spirit Forest.

I then talked about meeting Divine Beast Fenrir-sama, and the adventurers hired by Claude attaching the slave collar and showed hostility.

“Those damn fools!!!!”

King-sama and Brother-in-law-san were both exasperated with Claude and the others’ foolish move.

Well, that’s natural.
Even I thought the same thing...

“...Wait, Myne... Did you say Divine Beast Fenrir-sama’s children?
That carefree wolf relaxing on your head... Don’t tell me...”

“Yes, he is Divine Beast Fenrir-sama’s child”

He seems to have noticed us talking about him.

He greeted, “Wafu!”, as he raised his right hand.

...No, that’s cute but, what are you doing to the King-sama and the next King-sama?

It probably lost interest, and once again started relaxing on top of my head.

“...I, I can’t believe it... The Divine Beast-sama from legends in front of me...”

It must have been quite the shock.

Both of them were visibly trembling, no, getting flustered.

However, the talk won’t proceed if this goes on.

I’ll forcibly proceed with the talk!

I took out the three “Slave Collars” from my storage bag.

“King-sama, these are the “Slave Collars” attached to this kid and his siblings.

I thought that it might be useful so I brought it with me”

I handed the collars to Brother-in-law-san.

“...These are certainly “Slave Collars”.

There are serial numbers engraved onto these things, so we can arrest those guys who gave these to Claude and the others.

Thanks for the help, Myne”

And, at that moment, Brother-in-law-san who looked like he suddenly recalled something looked at me and asked.

“Wait? “Slave Collars” can only be taken off by the person who attached it in the first place, right?

How is it off without any incident?”

!! As expected, it’s here!!!

Now then, bring out your courage, Myne.

“...I used my Skill”

My answer was probably outside their expectations.

They didn’t think that I would talk about my Skills.

Both of them looked at each other and made surprised expressions.

“...What’s with that? Didn’t you not want to talk about your Skills?”

“...Yes, that is certainly the case...

For the time being, can we put that aside and continue the report?”

Both of them nodded their head and said “Yeah”, and urged me to continue.

I then conveyed the message from Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.

“...There will be no next time, huh”

“Chichiue, isn’t this rather a silver lining?

Thanks to Myne intervening, we were forgiven for this, so...

At any rate, though Divine Beast-sama’s child was stabbed to death, he promptly acted”

“...That’s true, I can’t express my gratitude with just thanking him, huh”

I then told them about Divine Beast Fenrir-sama calling me her friend.

About her children getting attached to me, and leaving behind them, but he still followed me.

I then talked more about my relationship with the Divine Beast parent and child.

“...Also, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama said this.

That she will become my backer.

If I deem necessary, I can talk about my Skills without fear”

“...A Divine Beast-sama becoming a human individual... his backer, you say!!?”

“Wafu!”

Probably reading the flow of the talk, the little Fenrir barked.

As if affirming the current talk.

“...I see, I don’t know what kind of secret there is to your Skill, but...

Divine Beast-sama protecting you... Such an amazing thing happened, huh...”

I nodded silently.

“Fumu, Myne. We are one royal family, before hearing about your Skill, can I meet Divine Beast-sama?”

King-sama seemed to have thought up something, and asked me that.

“...I don’t know without asking, but it should probably be alright”

All of a sudden, it has been arrange that the royal family and I will have a talk with Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.

Now then, I wonder what will happen.
I hope the talk will go well.

CHAPTER 76

DIVINE BEAST FENRIR

It was hurriedly decided that the royal family and I will assemble and have a conference with Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.

They can't immediately take time to assemble the royalty and move to the Divine Spirit Forest... or more precisely, they can't move freely while the case with Claude and the others isn't settled, so until after it becomes stable.

"I will tell Fenrir-sama for now"

As I said that, I called out to Fenrir-sama telepathically.

[What is it, Myne]

As I convey to Fenrir-sama the contents of the talk I just had with Ou-sama-tachi, she replied with an astonished voice.

[...Why don't I go there?

You can connect between this place and that with your Skill, right?

It will be settled in only a few steps, no?]

[However, they'll see my power, you know?]

[...Isn't that alright, either way, you will talk about your power, right?]

...Ah, that's right. I didn't realise that at all.

After that, since there wasn't a need to hide it, there shouldn't be any problems.

[...I'll try asking them]

I quickly told Ou-sama and Brother-in-law-san about Divine Beast Fenrir-sama's proposal.

"Divine Beast Fenrir-sama said that she will come here"

“W, what!? The whole royal capital will be in pandemonium, you know!?”

Aah, I left out a few words.

As expected, though only a part, I hesitated on telling them about my Skill.

“No, it will be alright.

If I use my Skill, she can move here immediately, so...”

As soon as I said that, their movements stopped, and turned silent.

...This silence is really unpleasant...

In a sense, it's a scene of nervousness, but...

The little Fenrir who had been on my head patting me destroyed the feeling of tension.

In the midst of an extremely complicated atmosphere, King-sama smiled wryly and looked towards the little Fenrir.

“I understand that your Skill is extraordinary.

We'll gather all the royalty immediately, and as soon as they're gathered, can you invite Divine Beast-sama?”

“Understood, I will convey that to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama!”

Receiving instructions from King-sama, Brother-in-law-san exited the room to call for family members.

“...However, it feels like a dream.

My daughter's finally marrying, and her spouse defeated an Orc King, and even befriended a Divine Beast-sama.

In society, I'm lionised as a hero, but...

...I've completely lost my confidence”

As King-sama said that, the little Fenrir jumped off from my head with a 'Pyon', and walked to King-sama's feet.

While looking at him, wondering what he was trying to do, he jumped onto Ou-sama's back and ran up to Ou-sama's head in one go.

“...What are you doing!!!”

W, what are you thinking, climbing onto King-sama’s head!!!

He probably didn’t hear my flustered voice, as the little Fenrir patted Ou-sama’s head.

[Cheer up—!]

...

There’s also the fact that he was a Divine Beast’s child, so King-sama did not even say a single complain.

His expression hardened, dumbfounded by what had happened.

“...King-sama, that kid... said “Cheer up—”“

As if responding to my words, the little Fenrir said “Wafu!” and once again raised his hand and agreed.

Ou-sama who heard that... Un, he burst into laughter.
And really loud at that.

“I will have to cheer up if that’s what Divine Beast-sama says! I thank you, Divine Beast-sama”

Hearing King-sama’s words, it once again said “Wafu!” and returned to me once again. Perhaps because my body is small, while he was having somewhat more trouble than when he climbed onto King-sama, he was already climbing onto my head, which you could say is his usual place.

After that, as King-sama stared at the little Fenrir’s actions, Brother-in-law-san returned, leading the members of royalty.

...Hm? Aah, Aisha’s also here.

She looks really nervous though...

That’s natural since she’s surrounded by royalty, huh, even I would be if I didn’t have my Skills.

...She was surely brought along by Sylphy.

The people who had gathered are...

King-sama, First Queen-sama, and a woman I have never met before.

She is probably His Highness Lecter's mother, in other words, the Second Queen-sama, right?

She also somehow looks like His Highness Lecter, after all.

Next is Brother-in-law-san and Sylphy, His Highness Lewis and His Highness Lecter. Ari and Aisha, these nine people and including me, a total of ten.

Facing all the gathered members, King-sama started explaining the situation.

That Divine Beast Fenrir-sama will come here using my Skill.

That Divine Beast Fenrir-sama stands behind me as my backer.

And that my Skills are so powerful that a Divine Beast must become my backer.

Hearing that explanation, excluding my two fiancées and Brother-in-law-san, everyone there showed expressions of surprise.

"...That being the case.

Myne who has become friends with a Divine Beast-sama will become our relative.

We may not be thinking of using him, but Divine Beast-sama may be worried about that.

Therefore, I had been thinking of proving our innocence to Divine Beast-sama"

King-sama talked to everyone there about his thoughts, and is confirming that there are no objections.

...King-sama seems to have thought about this really seriously.

I feel happy that the whole country's King-sama said something like this, but I also feel guilty.

However, my Skills alone are dangerous.

Depending on my feelings, I might even become the worst criminal.

Of course, I do not have such plans at all so it'll be alright, but others might not think that.

While I was collecting my thoughts, King-sama seems to have confirmed the intentions

of all the members.

“Now then, Myne, won’t you invite Divine Beast-sama?”

“...Yes”

I’m really nervous of using my Skill in this situation where I’m observed.
What can I do about this fear...

When I was about to be crushed by anxiety, I realised Sylphy and Aisha clenched their fist while looking at me.
The both of them then slowly moved their mouths.

[[Go for it!]]

I feel my nervousness dispersing all at once.
The little Fenrir then barked “Wafuu!!” loudly to support me.

With the little Fenrir’s bark, I resolved myself.

Using [Unique Magic • Space-time], I connected the space between here and Divine Beast Fenrir-sama’s residence, the cavern.
And then at the same time, a black vortex appeared before my eyes as usual.

“Ooooh!!”

A large violet wolf then slowly appeared from the vortex.

Yes, that wolf, is the one handed down through the ancient legends, Divine Beast • Fenrir.
My new friend.

CHAPTER 77

DIVINE BEAST'S CONTRACT

"Divine Beast... Fenrir-sama..."

Someone muttered that.

I didn't notice when we first met in the forest, but looking at her from this proximity, I certainly felt a majestic (?) like strength.

Her status as a "Divine Beast" really isn't just for show!

"...King of the Hume race. I have heard that you have something to talk to me about, what business do you have?"

"...I am grateful that I am able to meet you, Divine Beast-sama.

I have heard that you have become my daughter's spouse, Myne's backer.

A Divine Beast-sama becoming a Hume's...

No, I have heard that the person has a secret that you desire to protect just that one person by name"

Ou-sama started talking to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.

Starting from Aisha and me, all the members who were present held their breaths as they looked at the scene.

"Umu, there is no doubt that my friend has a large <Power>.

My friend, as you can see, is kind-hearted.

If that <Power> is exposed, there will definitely be people who will try to take advantage of that kindness and use him.

Therefore, I have become that person's backer"

Ou-sama and Divine Beast Fenrir-sama's conversation continued for a while after that. In the end, Ou-sama seems like he wants to know roughly when will Divine Beast Fenrir-sama move for my sake.

Well, that's certainly natural.

Even if the person himself doesn't have any plan for that, it would be extremely bad if they unconsciously incurred her imperial wrath.

In the end, the rough idea is these two points.

- Those who hurt me, those who try to deceive and use me, she will not even shun taking such people's lives.
- This does not apply if I am cooperating with my own intentions.

"...I understand.

All of us present here understood this seriously, and promise not to use Myne for our selfish desires.

In regard to this, I have a question...

I have heard that if a restriction using Divine Beast-sama's power is violated, that person will be punished, but is that true?"

Hm, somehow the atmosphere's changing, you know?

King-sama, what are you planning on saying...

"Fumu, that is certainly true"

"...In that case, won't you use that on us?

Won't you understand our resolve with that?

Of course, to those that do not desire this restriction, I swear that they will absolutely not reveal Myne's ability"

!!!!

Divine Beast-sama's punishment... isn't that something outrageous!?

It isn't good for the country's King-sama to promise that!!!!

"...King-sama, that... is absolutely not okay!"

As I interrupted the talk,

"What, it won't be a problem if the promise isn't broken, right?"

King-sama replied with a smile.
No, that's not it, that's not the problem...!

"...I do not mind that, but is that truly alright?"

King-sama strongly nodded at Divine Beast Fenrir-sama's question.
King-sama then confirmed whether the people who were there other than me accepted that restriction.

The result, those who decided to accept it are King-sama, First Queen-sama, Brother-in-law-san, His Highness Lewis, and Ari.
Also, my two fiancées, a total of seven people.

Those who decided to not accept it are Second Queen-sama and His Highness Lecter.
His Highness Lecter seemed like he wanted to accept it, but was admonished by his real mother, Second Queen-sama, and gave up.

She seems to fear that in the one-in-a-thousandth chance that all the people who accepted the condition are dead, the royal family's blood will die out.

Since that is absolutely true, King-sama silently nodded, and accepted it.

"Kukuku, humans are interesting. Very well, I shall "accept" this condition"

At the moment Divine Beast Fenrir-sama said that, a faint light surfaced from her violet body.

[I have "accepted" this restriction, can you hear my voice?]

Huh? Telepathy?

As I wondered about this strangely, the ones who accepted the restriction showed expressions of surprise.

"...T, this is"

Brother-in-law-san also looked bewildered.

[King of Hume race, the “Power of Restriction” you said, accurately it is called “Divine Beast Contract”.

Its basis is the same as the “Divine Beast’s Sacred Protection” Myne received.

However, if you were to violate what you have vowed in front of me, you shall receive an unbearable pain throughout your whole body.

But, in exchange, you will be able to converse with me through telepathy.

Just because there is this contract, do not forget your promise, alright?]

Faren Augusta

Race: Hume

LV: 51

Gender: Male

Age: 52 years

Occupation: King of the Augusta Kingdom

[Skill]

One-handed Sword • Saint Lv9

Physical Strength Enhancement • Large

[Divine Beast Contract]

Telepathy <<Fenrir>> new!

...It’s certainly added.

[However, it is different from Myne’s, you cannot converse with our family from anywhere you want.

Remember that you need to be within a certain range from our family.

Though, there probably won’t be cases where you have to call out to me...]

As soon as Divine Beast Fenrir-sama said that, the little Fenrir on my head raised his voice.

[I’m here, you know—I’m here—I!]

At the moment he raised his voice, Divine Beast Fenrir-sama spoke in an astonished voice.

[...I see, you really don’t plan to come home, do you, boy?]

[I'm not going back—I want to be with Myne—I!]

Saying that, he once again patted my head.

...No, I want you to stop patting my head, please.

“I have certainly received the “Divine Beast Contract””

King-sama who understood the situation said that to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama.

[Umu, well then, I will be returning. Myne, won't you link to my residence]

“Understood! Thank you very much!!”

As I once again used [Unique Magic • Space-time], a black vortex appeared in front of me just like before.

As the little Fenrir raised his hand and called out “Wafu!” to Divine Beast Fenrir-sama who decided to return...

[I'll entrust that kid to you, Myne]

Saying that, she disappeared into the vortex.

With the overwhelming presence of Divine Beast Fenrir-sama disappearing from that place, the atmosphere evidently lightened.

“...Phew, as expected of Divine Beast-sama. The presence is to the extent of being dreadful...”

Brother-in-law-san expressed those words.

Excluding me, everyone nodded at those words.

“...Now then, the two people who did not receive Divine Beast-sama's contract, withdraw”

Receiving King-sama's words, Second Queen-sama and His Highness Lecter both withdrew from the room.

As expected, His Highness Lecter made a face as if regretting a little.

There's no helping it, I guess.

"...Now then, Myne. Won't you tell us about it?"

Finally, the time to talk about my secret has come.
Come on, I shall summon my courage!

CHAPTER 78

MY SECRET AND CLAUDE'S SECRET

“The Skills I was bestowed with by Kami-sama are...”

As I said that, I felt all the members that were present gulped.
...Of course, I am also nervous that my throat dried up.

“[Appraisal • Complete] and [Cut & Paste], these two Skills”

As I said that, everyone except for Aisha made expressions as if saying “Oh?”.

“...Fumu, it's the same as the report we received from the temple, isn't it?
If those two are the Skills you have been bestowed with, there isn't any reason for Divine Beast-sama to be your backer, right?”

Brother-in-law-san inquired about that.

...Yes, certainly, if you look at these two separately, that's how it is, huh.

“King-sama, King-sama is called the hero by society.
A big reason for that is said to be the combination of the Skills possessed, right?”

“Yeah, I certainly agreed with those who said that”

King-sama affirmed my words, and returned a reply.

“...My Skills can be joined together, and doing so, it exhibits an outrageous ability”

“Fumu, certainly, it can become a way greater power if the Skills are combined, but...
The combination of the Skills Myne obtained... I can't think of anything...”

Certainly, if you don't understand precisely the ability of the individual Skills, you probably can't think of anything.
That's the natural response, huh.

“...I can cut the Skills of other people or monsters I’ve seen with Appraisal, and paste it somewhere else”

Even though I said that, everyone seemed like they didn’t quite understand.

...However, after Aisha and Sylphy thought for a while, they shouted.

They’ve seen my fight with the Orc King firsthand, after all, that’s probably why they could understand what I just said.

“Da, Danna-sama... t, that’s... don’t tell me...!?”

“Myne-kun!!?”

The others seem like they didn’t understand.

“Yes, that’s right.

I’ve [Cut] the Skills from the Orc King and the others and [Paste] them on myself.

The Skill I used to invite Fenrir-sama is a Skill I obtained from the Orc King”

!!!!!!

With those words, everyone present seem to have understood.

All of them showed dumbfounded expressions.

“...I see, that’s why you used so many Skills during the mock battle!”

Brother-in-law-san seem to have recalled the mock battle and expressed his understanding.

“...The reason I didn’t talk about my Skill, is because I thought people who will try to use me will appear if they know about this”

I explained why I kept silent and hid it up until now.

I talked about my fear of people who I would avoid in fear appearing so that I can avoid getting used, and everything I have thought about.

“I understand now, Myne.

...It’s certainly something Divine Beast-sama would mind...”

“Myne, during the mock battle, why didn’t you cut off my Skills?
If you did that, wouldn’t you have won against me?”

Though Brother-in-law-san said that, my answer has already been decided from the start.

“When I cut off Skills from people...

I’ve decided that it should only be when danger approaches my family, acquaintances or my own lives!

At that time, Brother-in-law-san was purely thinking for my sake and held the mock battle.

That is why, I responded fair and square!”

As I answered that, Brother-in-law-san smiled, and like when he came to my house, patted my back.

...The little Fenrir took the opportunity and patted my head as well.

Un, I’ve said this many times, but I’d like it if you stop it.

“...I see, I can trust those words, right?

Since you have Divine Beast-sama as your backer, I understand that I have no choice but to trust you, but this is an important matter.

Properly answer me with your own words”

I think King-sama is probably worrying about me stealing Skills indiscriminately. This is probably the natural reaction as a statesman.

He doesn’t have the confidence to believe me, since I didn’t open up about my secret, which is the biggest reason.

That’s why, I had expected King-sama would ask me about this.

...That’s why to let him trust me, I prayed from my heart while I answered.

“Yes, I will absolutely not take Skills indiscriminately!”

Hearing my proclamation, King-sama’s visibly showed an expression of relief.

“...Understood... I shall trust you.

However, it's an ability I didn't expect...

I see, I can now understand you crushing an Orc King alone.

Honestly, even though I saw the Orc King's remains, I couldn't quite believe it"

After that, I received a few questions, and the discussion ended.

At any rate, Ou-sama and the others have the matter about the dragon's children, and I've only just returned from the Divine Spirit Forest.

I have to take time to rest and King-sama has to pass down his judgment, after all.



Receiving Myne's shocking confession, I had originally wanted to slowly collect my thoughts, but I have to first settle an urgent matter.

The place I am in is a room in the dungeon created underneath the royal castle to capture atrocious criminals.

Claude, the heir to the Roselia family who had been arrested because of his dishonesty in the previous game, is imprisoned here.

Accompanied by the knight leader, I who entered the prison asked the jailer a question.

"...How is it, has he confessed?"

"No, not yet"

Knitting my brows at the jailer's words, I looked at Claude who was tied to the wall. He was probably whipped quite a bit.

Tears can be seen here and there on his pointlessly extravagant clothes, and thin traces of blood oozing out from them.

Though he hasn't been imprisoned for too long, but judging from his looks, he probably received quite a lot of interrogation.

I originally wanted to take more time to get him to confess, but this time, we don't have much time.

Even at this moment, the adult dragon may show up in some town.

I absolutely do not want to see a dragon blinded by rage from its child stolen from it.

We have to release the child dragon no matter what it takes before any damage is inflicted.

This isn't a situation where we can choose our means any more.

"...Claude, honestly tell us the hiding place of the child dragon"

"Your Majesty! Please listen to me! This is a conspiracy! I have been framed!
Yes, I have been framed by that commoner called Myne or something!!!"

I took a sidelong glance at the Claude who had become desperate and made up excuses, and took out something from my bosom.

As soon as he saw that thing, Claude who had been making excuses suddenly stopped moving, and abruptly became quiet.

Yes, this is the "Slave Collar" Myne entrusted me with.

"Your Majesty, I will hand this over.

These are "Slave Collars" which had been attached to the children.

These are thought to be carried by the adventurers Claude hired.

I thought it might be helpful so..."

Seeing the "Slave Collars" I received from Myne, my heart danced for joy.

There isn't any physical evidence better than these collars.

I immediately summoned the knight leader, and had him infer the slave dealer registered with the royal family from the engraved serial number.

Then, before 30 minutes passed, the slave dealer was determined.

"Well done! Immediately arrest that slave dealer!

Then search whether the child dragon is within his store!

There isn't much time, hurry!!"

I once again asked Claude who went silent.

"Claude. I'll ask you once again, where did you hide the child dragon?"

“ ..”

I see, he's still feigning ignorance.

“Jailer, cut off one of Claude's finger”

“!!!!!!”

As I emotionlessly issued the instruction to the jailer, Claude looked towards my face in a panic.

“...Please wait! Your Majesty!! Your Majesty!! I don't know anything, I don't know!! Please stop, Hiii~”

There's no helping it if he doesn't this late in the game.
It's just that, he'll lose his hand if he doesn't want to talk.

I silently signalled the jailer.

“Guooooooooooooooooo!!!! Finger, my finger!!!!”

The jailer who received my signal, silently cut off one of Claude's finger.

“...How is it, do you feel like talking now?”

“Gu... Gu... Haa... Haa”

As expected, he's stubborn.
Well, if he confessed to his crimes, it wouldn't end with just his finger getting cut off.

He won't confess easily, huh.

As I thought that, the knights dragged two men over.

One of them is the slave dealer who had registered the collar.
The other one is the Roselia family head, that is, Claude's father.

“Your Majesty!? Why am I here... C, Claude!!!!

What have you done to deserve this!!”

Discovering his own son restrained and receiving torture, Lord Roselia shouted loudly.

I explained to Lord Roselia all about the sequence of events.

Hearing my explanations, Lord Roselia who understood the situation had his complexion visibly deteriorate.

...That’s understandable.

If this was true... No, since there was proof, it is true, the Roselia family would undoubtedly be shut down.

While I was talking with Lord Roselia, the slave dealer was bounded beside Claude.

“Now then, let me ask again.

Where did you hide the child dragon? It won’t end with just a finger this time. Think carefully before you talk”

“ ..

“ ..

Hmph, both of them are not explaining huh.

“Lord Roselia, won’t you persuade your son?

If you can get information on where the child dragon is, I can allow your Roselia family to only shut down.

Well, it’ll be impossible to not be criticised at all, though”

Lord Roselia who heard my words became desperate and started persuading his son. Just by seeing him persuading, there doesn’t seem to be any doubt that Lord Roselia isn’t related to this matter.

I watched over them for a while, but there was absolutely no progress, so I once again decided to signal the jailer.

“Jailer, cut off one of the slave dealer’s finger.

After that, cut off two of Claude’s”

The slave dealer who heard my words showed a desperate expression.

...Claude looked at me with eyes full of hatred.

“Let me ask you once again, where is the child dragon!”

“...I’ll talk! I’ll talk!!! I’ll talk so please let me go!!”

“...Wh, you bastard!!!”

Oh, the slave dealer gave in, huh.

Though that guy Claude was glaring at the slave dealer, I’ll somehow manage with this.

“Oh, that’s a good attitude. And, where did you hide it?”

“...It’s in the Town of Adol...”

Of all the places, it’s in Adol!!!!

Did they hide it in a town with so many people!?

This is bad, Adol’s also too far from the royal capital!!!

Kuh, isn’t there some kind of way!



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